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THURSDAY, MAY 12TH 2016

VALE VICTORY FOR JANE HUTT
See Page 22

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
SEE PAGE 20 FOR DETAILS...
LOCAL NEWSPAPER WEEK 16-22 MAY

THE VICTORIA INN, SIGINGSTONE
SEE PAGE 17 FOR FEATURE

COWBRIDGE WELCOMES TOP COUNTY BOWLERS

PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE WILCOCK.

ABOVE: Cowbridge Bowling Club played host to a county fixture between Glamorgan and Somerset recently. See more pictures on page 4 and a report on page 44.

Welsh TV and film boom spins off to boost Cowbridge

THE current boom in film and TV production in south Wales is not confined to Cardiff and Pinewood Studios in Newport – the ripples are reaching out to Cowbridge too, writes PHILIP IRWIN.

For a year now, a film production company has been based in the town, and have filmed in a number of locations, particularly in the Llanblethian area – but also in Llantwit Major.

Boom Cymru is currently filming the second series of an S4C drama *Parch* – scheduled to be broadcast in early September.

Series one was well received, and was the first TV series written by the Welsh novelist, lecturer and singer, Fflur David.

When filming of this series is finished, the company will move on to more locations in the area, as they shoot the third series of *35 Days* – another S4C drama.

Cowbridge readers may remember the time when Sky were filming Stella, using the Fich and Ramous hairdressers on Sundays and Mondays, and also spending one day filming in IG Nicholas butchers in the High Street.

That production meant that a fleet of huge lorries were parked in town, either in the comprehensive school or at the livestock market.

Well, Boom Cymru TV production company is making two series for S4C, and the budget is less extravagant.

Producer Paul Jones told The GEM: "We pay our technicians the same rates, but we don't have the massive budgets that some shows on Sky or the BBC have."

He added that the company's best-known show had been *Con Passionata*, which starred Shan Cothi and ran for three series.

The GEM visited the film set this week, for a wedding party being filmed at Coed Hills, St Hilary, which closed for the day.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Dog ban provokes healthy discussion!

THIS week's GEM post bag was flooded with people debating last week's story, reporting that one reader thought the five month ban on dogs at Whitmore Bay (which also applies to other Vale beaches) was excessive and should be relaxed.

It aroused passions on both sides of the debate. For the bulk of the letters relating to the dog ban, turn to page 2; for more letters, please turn to pages 8, 9 and 21.

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

- Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Dogs on beach in the evening is fine

I'M replying to the article in The GEM (May 5) on the subject of dogs being kept off the beaches for such a long time during the summer months.

I for one, would welcome the idea of letting them on after 7pm, although here in Llantwit Major people are always on the beach with their dogs, all year round.

Telling them is met with offensive language! So let's hope someone will let this idea take off.

Margaret Wood,
Llantwit Major.

Dog owning is anti-social

7YET again the doggy fraternity floor you with their arrogance regarding the dog ban on beaches during the summer.

The two most used phrases by dog lovers is "my dog wouldn't hurt a flea", which is usually prompted by your young child being bowled over by Rover running wild off his lead.

Only last week yet another child had half its face bitten off by a Chihuahua, and of course, the "I always pick my dogs excrement up and deposit it properly".

The dog fouling in the Vale is not being policed and if you doubt this then just check how many people have been prosecuted in the past five years and then compare that figure with the number of times you see dog deposits in public places.

All dogs should be muzzled in public places and all dogs should be banned from beaches, parks and public playing fields, 12 months of the year.

G Tippins, Barry.

'Ban on dogs should be even longer'

WHEN I read your article on complaints from dog owners about banning dogs from beaches for five months in the summer, I had to go and check my diary to make sure it was not April 1.

This carping by some dog owners is typical of the upside down view some people have today. Already, dogs have the freedom to run around our beaches for seven months of the year and yet this is not enough for some. They want more. How greedy, how selfish, how inconsiderate.

There are plenty of other places to walk dogs. Admittedly there may not be a coffee shop nearby. So what. Take a flask of coffee with you if you need it.

How many dogs have been knocked over and injured by children? None. How many dogs have been bitten by children? None. How many dogs have been blinded after contracting toxocariasis from children? None.

The same cannot be said about injuries and illness to children caused by dogs. Dogs and children do not mix in a place like a beach or playing field. It might by said by some dog owners that the risk is very slight. That may well be so, but it is a risk I am not prepared to take with my children.

Long may this ban on dogs on our beaches continue and may I even dare to suggest that in future it commences at Easter.

C Kimber, Rhoose

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'A SEGREGATED AREA IS THE ANSWER TO DOG PROBLEMS'

AS I sit on a cold wet Saturday, reading the article about the summer dog ban across the Vale, I find it hard to imagine that many families will be sitting on the Vale's beaches today – the same could be said for last weekend, which was a typical wash-out Bank Holiday.

However, come rain or shine, dog walkers can be found frequenting Barry Island and the Vale's other key dog walking areas, spending money in the shops and cafes.

Having spent last weekend in Llangranog, west Wales with our canine family member, Ubel, it is plain to see the contrast between a forwards and a rearwards looking council when it comes to closed beach policies.

The small but picturesque beach is segregated between dog-friendly and no-dog sections. Both the pubs and the ice cream cafe are dog-friendly.

Given the weather forecast for the Bank Holiday, these issues featured prominently in our choice of holiday location.

Might I also remind readers that about 12 years ago, the Vale Council attempted the draconian measure of banning dogs from Whitmore Bay all year round. This measure was stopped in its tracks due to a petition and demonstration by dog walkers, organised by myself and my partner.

If the Vale is serious about attracting more canine tourism, as was suggested several weeks ago in the news, then the outdated policy should be revisited.

My preferred option would be segregated areas, as quite simply I wouldn't take my dog on Whitmore Bay after a busy day, due to all the people-waste and dirty nappies left by visitors to the beach during the day. I don't want my dog catching anything from that!

Ade Pitman, Barry

Other places to walk dogs

AS a dog owner, my personal view is yes, there should be a ban on dogs using the beach in high season, especially on Barry Island which is a huge tourist area for local businesses.

If I was sitting on the beach with my children I would hate the thought of sitting in a dog's toilet, and would be concerned about so many unleashed dogs roaming around.

I am a responsible dog owner, but there are many "and you know who you are" who do not pick up after your dogs.

There are many other places to walk your dog, Porthkerry Park, Mill Wood, the old Harbour, Cosmeston, Romilly Park etc, your dog will appreciate the change!

Suzanne Butcher.

'Dog owners need to respect area'

IN response to the item about dogs being banned from Vale beaches, May 5 edition of The GEM, I would like to make the following points:

Until thoughtless dog owners respect the area they live in and clear up the dog mess they leave on pavements and beaches, I think it is only fair that the beaches ban stands in the summer months.

It is made to protect people (who are partially clothed and enjoying the beach) from accidently coming into contact with dog excrement.

As a dog owner myself, I agree that the footpaths in the Vale are a disgrace but it is the dog owners who are the offenders for not following the Canine Code and clearing up debris after their pet, like the responsible dog owners do. It gets the rest of us a bad reputation.

I cannot take my dog for a walk and look around me, I am constantly inspecting the footpaths and making sure my dog, and I, miss the obstructions left by thoughtless dog owners and their dogs because it is offensive having to clean shoes or paws afterwards.

A Flinn,
Barry.

'Vale staff clear up mess daily'

MY friend and I often go for walks all year round at Barry Island.

Earlier this year, we were appalled at the amount of dog mess on the prom and pathways and spoke to the Vale operatives working there.

We were told that they clean up two to three times a day, these are the dog owners that want to extend the seven months that they are allowed onto the beach.

My friend and I also pay our taxes and would like to be able to take our grandchildren there and be dog mess free, as would many other Barry residents and of course, visitors to Barry Island.

I have been informed that Jackson's Bay and the Old Harbour remain available to dogs and their owners.

Doreen Oakley,
Barry resident and dog lover.

'Council have the balance right'

I AM a regular user of the beach all-year round. I take my two sons, aged five and two, on Barry Island beach most weekends and, in my view, it is right to exclude animals from the beach during spring/summer.

For the months when the dogs are 'rightly' allowed, I have to watch my boys like a hawk.

This is due to 90 per cent of owners letting their dogs off the leash. Whilst the majority of dogs are friendly, some do pose a threat to young children.

So for me, the present system is fair – dogs get seven months to dominate the beach (and as a parent I accept that as fair and look after my boys accordingly) and kids get five months to do the same (when parents can be more relaxed).

I pay council tax in Barry like many parents do, and the thought of dogs running around on a beach full of young kids has disaster written all over it (and let's be honest, if one child got mauled then there would be calls for an all-year ban on dogs, which would be unfair).

It should be remembered that dogs can still have fantastic walks around Nell's Point.

(Name of address supplied)

'Relax ban – dogs aren't the only problem'

REGARDING the item in the Barry and Penarth GEM of May 5, I am all in favour of lifting the ban on dogs from 7pm; also in the morning until 9am or 10am, because few people are on the beach then 'swimming or sun-bathing'.

I consider it is more hazardous than dogs on the beach, when people are playing cricket on the beach, albeit with tennis-balls, because you have to give them a very wide berth, particularly if you have toddlers or young children.

Having said all this, I accept that dog-owners must be responsible for picking up dog-excrement; as, of course, most of them do already.

Incidentally, I have no 'axe to grind', as I am not a dog-owner.

Anne Sprinks,
Dinas Powys.

Dogs on beaches are a bad idea

IN response to the person (GEM letters, May 5) asking about the beach ban on dogs, I am a council tax payer and couldn't wait for the ban to come into force.

I am an avid walker and love to walk our beautiful beaches, but I cannot stand dogs running to me and jumping up, with the owners telling me its harmless and, oh, it likes you.

I do not want someone's dirty paws over my clothes. I also don't like the mess that is still being left by some owners, and the thought of children sat on the sand where a dog has just urinated makes me feel physically sick.

I know it's not all owners, but until every one of them does what is right, I hope the ban is extended and, as for letting them on the beach later in the evenings...

I also work long hours and can't wait for the light summer nights and beaches free of animals.

Frances Moyle.

Dog owners are the problem

I READ with interest the letter from a reader complaining about the five-month ban on dogs using the beaches.

If all dog owners were responsible and kept their dogs under control, and didn't allow them free rein off their leads to mess on the beach and not clear it up, I would understand.

The authorities in the West Country have the right idea and dogs are banned all year round.

Perhaps your reader has a different solution, even though we all pay council tax.

Mike McGregor,
Cardiff.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL MAY 19)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
12 Thur	11.21	8.9	23.44	8.8
13 Fri			12.17	8.3
14 Sat	00.41	8.1	13.19	7.9
15 Sun	01.52	7.8	14.34	7.6
16 Mon	03.03	7.8	15.47	7.8
17 Tues	04.12	8.1	16.42	8.2
18 Wed	05.05	8.4	17.29	8.5
19 Thur	05.51	8.8	18.12	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Arts group exhibition at Old Hall

Art enthusiasts enjoying the exhibition at Cowbridge Old Hall.

ON May 4, Cowbridge Arts Group enjoyed a delightful evening with local art enthusiasts, along with the kind support of the Mayor and Mayoress of Cowbridge (Mr D W Morris and Mrs E A George) at the opening of the 'Art in the Old Hall' exhibition.

The celebrations began with some interesting history of the Iolo Gallery, which began early in the 1970s with a dedicated woman called Jane Hodson, who opened the front room of her home on Westgate Street, Cowbridge.

A newspaper article from the archives of the history room in the Old Hall quotes Jane as saying: "Local artists have got to have somewhere to display their work."

From small beginnings a grant was obtained and the Iolo Gallery was moved to the Old Hall in 1975. With the success of this grant, a group of people interested in art in the Cowbridge area were invited to form the Cowbridge Arts Group.

I am pleased to say the Cowbridge Arts Group continues to this day, 41 years on.

The aims back in 1975 were 'exhibitions are envisaged as being adventurous, with a great variety as possible of works of a high standard'.

The 'Art at the Old Hall' exhibition is most definitely a showcase of a variety of paintings, ceramics and textiles by those associated with the Old Hall which include Vale courses tutors, learners and members of the Cowbridge Art Society – a high standard indeed.

Please visit the Old Hall Gallery during May and let us know your favourite piece.

NL

Mayor welcomes local prostate charity to close his year in office

Left to right: Mayor and Mayoress Coun David Morris and Lorraine Pointon-Bell; High Sherriff of South Glamorgan, Heather Stevens and husband David; Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Cardiff, Coun David Walker and Jan Walker; Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr Peter Beck and wife Lyn, and Former High Sherriff of Mid Glamorgan, Jayne James and husband Rob.

ONE of Wales' leading cancer charities has received a generous donation from the Mayor of Cowbridge.

Coun David Morris, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, hosted a black tie dinner to mark the final fundraising event of his year in office.

The event was held in support of the Mayor's chosen charities – Prostate Cymru and the Motivation and Learning Trust, and raised a total sum of £1,600.

Held at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge, the event was attended by 105 guests who were dressed up in their finest for the black tie dinner, which included a delicious three-course meal. Renowned local singer and DJ, Aubrey Parsons, provided entertainment for the evening.

The Mayor began fundraising for the two charities when he assumed office in May 2015. Fundraising events included monthly coffee mornings, a strawberry tea, an exciting murder mystery evening and an entertaining Fawlty Towers-themed evening.

Over the year, a total of more than £7,100 was raised, and this will be divided between the two charities.

Andy Thomas, the chairman of Prostate Cymru, said: "We are very grateful to receive this donation from the Mayor of Cowbridge and want to thank him again for picking Prostate Cymru as his chosen charity for the year."

"The donation will help us continue our work in raising awareness of prostate cancer among the Welsh public while helping those who have been affected by the diseases."

Prostate Cymru is the leading charity in Wales working with medical professionals in the fight against all prostate diseases, benign and malignant. Its mission is to raise awareness, promote understanding and fund both the latest medical equipment and the training of healthcare professionals.

It was started in Cowbridge by the late Ray Murray, his wife Lyn, and Andy Thomas.

To find out more about Prostate Cymru, visit: http://www.prostatecymru.com/

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

News from Llangan Community Council

AT the annual general meeting of Llangan Community Council on May 3, Coun Nigel Blethyn of Treoes was re-elected as chairman and Keith Jones, Ruthin, as vice chairman.

Llangan community hall

DURING my recent visit to the Llangan community hall to register my vote, I was pleasantly surprised to see the improvements which have been made, especially for disabled visitors.

Well done to those responsible.

New bus shelters

THE new bus shelter situated in close proximity to Ferm Goch and the new housing development is a very long time overdue.

I can remember residents waiting in the rain for the village bus travelling from Cowbridge via Penllyne, the Graig and Ferm Goch to Bridgend.

An improvement on an area of the playing field at Ferm Goch has also taken place.

Reminder

ON Saturday morning, May 14, there will be a coffee and cake event at St Canna's, Llangan.

If anyone would like to contribute cakes it would be greatly appreciated. Please deliver cakes by 10am on the day.

A concert will take place, again in St Canna's, on June 17 by the Belladonna Ensemble. Please contact Mrs R Williams, Great House, Treoes for further information.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

A SERVICE will take place at Saron on Sunday, May 15 at 3pm, conducted by Rev Trevor Harry. Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Pioneering childcare

PIONEERING childcare is provided at Fun Foundations in Cowbridge, said Jane Hutt following a visit to meet Amy Ferguson and her team of childcare staff.

Ms Hutt enjoyed seeing the children benefit from this provision in the Vale.

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If so, it may be you we are looking for!

Sight Cymru would like to hear from you if you are interested in volunteering your time and talents in the Cowbridge area. In return, you will have the opportunity to be part of a busy and thriving local charity, to learn new skills and make new friends. Also, perhaps most importantly, you will know you are making a difference.

Does this sound like you? If so, hop to it and contact us at Sight Cymru on becs.harris@sightcymru.org.uk or call 01495 763650. Failing that, just drop into our offices at Bradbury House, Park Buildings, Pontypool NP4 6JH any weekday between 10am and 4pm.

Please call Becs on 01495 763650 or email becs.harris@sightcymru.org.uk for more information

County match played at Cowbridge Bowling Club

ABOVE: The officials of the Glamorgan and Somerset teams, with Cowbridge ladies' captain, Phyllis Price.

Cowbridge Bowling Club was delighted to host their first county match, Glamorgan v Somerset, on Wednesday, May 4, and MIKE WILCOCK was on hand to capture the teams. Four of their club's lady members were selected to play for the Glamorgan team, who earned a victory. The four (pictured above with ladies' captain Phyllis Price) were Lynda Wilson, Shirley Wilkinson, Sue Flower and Pat Holdsworth. *SEE THE BACK PAGE FOR THE FULL REPORT.*

New astronomical society to be launched in area

THESE past few months, I have been researching the original Barry Astronomical Society that was active from 1912-1923.

I am delighted to announce that due to several responses from local people, I have made some progress and the work continues.

During this time I have received a number of requests on the lines of 'could we have a new astronomical society in Barry'?

With this in mind, I have booked the Barry Island Community Centre, Friars Road, Barry Island, (CF62 5TR) for 7.30pm on Monday, June 6, to find out if there is enough interest.

I would like to promote the use of small telescopes and observe the night skies, aiming events at beginner level.

If you are interested in joining such a group, then please do attend the meeting.

I can also be reached on 02920 551704.

Dave Powell, Cardiff.

The bright lights of TV and film come to Cowbridge

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Coed Hills Rural Artspace has its own wedding venue, so it was a case of fitting the room out with a wedding buffet, and packing it with extras, while the actors filmed their dialogue scenes.

The next day's shooting schedule included filming a funeral in a local churchyard.

Paul Jones said: "We do find that the Church-in-Wales is very helpful when it comes to filming in local churches."

When it comes to listing locations that have been used in the Vale, that list gets very long, with *Dr Who, Sherlock, Wolf Hall* and *The Hollow Crown* just a few.

The economic spin off, in terms of payment for the use of a location, wages for extras, and the work that is now available for technicians, is considerable

Indeed, local training schemes such as 'It's My Shout' which is based in Pencoed, are finding that more and more of their trainees are finding full-time work.

Roger Burnell, who runs It's My Shout, told The GEM: "People don't realise how many jobs are associated with filming. There are catering, general work on set (gaffers) and location scouts, to name just a few.

"It is very encouraging to see so many young people getting work in the area."

Parch ended series one on a cliffhanger, so there is considerable interest in series two. Paul Jones said that Fflur David had taken a close interest in the show's development, despite her work as a lecturer in Swansea.

The Reverend Myfanwy Elfed, played by Carys Eleri, is the main character in *Parch*. But although she is a vicar, the drama is not about religion according to Fflur.

Describing series one, Fflur who's 36 and a mother to two daughters aged two and four, said: "First and foremost Myfanwy is a woman and a mother - and secondly, she's a vicar.

"Myfanwy is typical of many women who try their best to bring up a family while juggling lots of other things."

When the crew start work on 35 Days, quite a bit of filming is scheduled for Llansannor, they will be repeating a formula that is rather like *Columbo* in reverse – but without the comedy.

The show will start with a murder, but instead of a scruffy detective coming to solve it, the action will jump back 35 days, and show how the characters interacted, and show what led to that murder.

Carys Eleri plays the lead character in Parch.

Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival

Thursday 19 - Sunday 22 May 2016 TURN UP & GO

Detail and Terms: www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk or Phone 01446 749000

WALK	DAY/TIME	DISTANCE	LOCATION	WALK NAME	START
1	Thur 0930-1330	8.5 m	Colwinston	Let's Walk in a Circle	Sycamore Tree Inn, Colwinston, CF71 7NG
2	Thur 0930-1300	2 m	Barry Island	Barry Island Circular	Smugglers Cove Crazy Golf, Barry Island
3	Thur 1000-1300	5 m	Porthkerry	Woodland Park and Coast	Porthkerry Country Park Woodland Café
4	Thur 1000-1300	1.75 m	Penarth	Taith Hwyl i'r Teulu / Family Fun Walk	Gorsaf Reilffordd Penarth Railway Station, bilingual walk
5	Thur 1030-1500	8 m	Cowbridge	Castle Court & Wells	Cowbridge Town Hall car park
	Thur 1100		Barry Island	Festival Launch with refreshments	Former TIC, Barry Island
6	Thur 1300-1730	4.5 m	Cardiff Bay	Boat Trip & River Walk	Penarth Barrage car park. (Parking fee and boat charge)
7	Thur 1415-1615	3 m	Penarth Pier	Penarth Scenic Walk	♫ Penarth Pier
8	Fri 1000-1400	6-7 m	Barry	Highlight Trail	Lay-by next to Bryn Hill Golf Club car park
9	Fri 1030-1200	3 m	Llantwit Major	Llantwit Lanes	Llantwit Major Railway Station car park
10	Fri 1100-1330	2.5 m	Lavernock	Ancient desert and warm seas	Lavernock Church, Lavernock Point ST 186 682
11	Fri 1500-1700	3m	Cardiff Bay	Cardiff Bay Barrage	♫ Norwegian Church, Cardiff
12	Fri 1745-2100	3m	Cowbridge	Vale Ale Trail VII	Edmondes Arms, Primrose Hill, Cowbridge
13	Sat 1000-1400	6-7m	Penarth	Circular walk via Lavernock and Cosmeston	Meet in front of Penarth Library
14	Sat 1030-1230	3 m	Llancarfan	Iron Age Fort & Medieval Art	Fox & Hounds Pub, Llancarfan
15	Sat 1100-1245	3 m	Dinas Powys	Dinas Powys & St Andrews Ridge	Dinas Powys Village Square
16	Sat 1300-1500	2 m	Cosmeston	An introduction to the Birds of Cosmeston Lakes	Cosmeston Lakes Car Park
17	Sat 1400-1600	3.5 m	Llancarfan	Coed Gamlwyd Nature Reserve and Llancarfan	Llancarfan car park to the rear of the Fox and Hounds
18	Sat 1430-1730	5.5 m	Penarth	Ar drywydd J Saunders Lewis - A Commemorative Walk	Penarth Cliff Top car park, bilingual walk
19	Sun 1000-1200	3m	Monknash	Start with a coffee and walk the stone stiles	Heritage Coast Campsite NGR SS 917 705
20	Sun 1100-1230	3m	Barry	Barry Cemetery Walk	Cemetery Gates, Cemetery Approach Road, Barry
21	Sun 1330-1630	4 m	Llantwit Major	Churches & Coastal Walk	Llantwit Major Town Hall
22	Sun 1400-1630	5 m	Dinas Powys	The Salmon Leaps	Dinas Powys, St Peter's Church, Mill Rd.
23	Sun 1800-1900	2 m	Barry Island	Island Sundowner	Barry Island Promenade RNLI Information Centre

Sunday 22 May - End of Festival - join us at Coffee Cove, Barry Island from 7pm. Licensed bar, coffee/teas, soft drinks and snacks.

♫ These walks link to concerts taking place in the area as part of the Vale of Glamorgan Festival. For details visit - www.valeofglamorganfestival.org.uk

Sorry, we cannot take dogs on Festival walks

Go to the **Cowbridge GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Jockey Rhys' North Carolina success

ON AND OFF THE TURF WITH BRIAN LEE

RHYS FLINT, from Bridgend, won the $75,000 The Queen's Cup MPC Steeplechase at Mineral Springs, North Carolina last weekend.

Rhys (25) son of Bridgend trainer John Flint, riding Ann Taylor Rowe's *Maserati,* scored a three-length victory in this feature race in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Trained by Leslie Young, *Maserati* won the 21st running of this important race in fine style and Rhys also took the closing flat race on the same owner's *Director*.

Nearer to home, Bridgend builder Roger Willcox saw his nine-year-old bay gelding *Patricktom Boru* land the ladies' open race at the Radnor & West Herefordshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Coldharbour last Saturday.

Well ridden by Jodie Hughes, *Patricktom Boru,* a winner over hurdles and over the jumps, won by two lengths from *Get It On* partnered by Sarah Bowen.

Justin Hoskins' *Blazing Buck,* ridden by Hannah Lewis, won the four miles ladies' open race at the Modbury Harriers Point-To-Point in Devon, beating *Belle Flower Boy* by three lengths after both horses had jumped the last fence together.

At the Banwen Miners' Hunt Point-To-Point where David Llewellyn's prolific *Rosies Peacock* beat the Michael Bowen-trained *Cygnet* by a length in the men's open race, Conor Orr, who rides out for Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams, on board Mrs Sherre Lean's seven-year-old *The Mobile Man* took the second division of the maiden after leading two fences from the finish.

Conor (20) who has ridden three winners under rules for Williams, was winning his first point-to-point race in Wales.

Llanharan's Tom David who took the confined race on *Itchymei'mscratch* was knocked unconscious later in the day when falling from *Boyfromnowhere* at the first fence in the men's open race.

Tom's younger brother Evan is also on the injured list as he broke a bone in his foot when schooling a horse in the morning at Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard.

The ladies' open race went to the 7-1 outsider of three, *Highly Unlikely,* who made every yard of the running under owner/trainer Charlotte Evans to score by a length from *Watch The Birdie*.

James King took the restricted on *Indian Leader* who had a length and a half to spare over the Bradley Gibbs-ridden *Key People* and Welsh champion John Mathias made it a hat-trick when winning the intermediate on *Gardiners Hill* and the first division of the split maiden on *Last Of The Buds*.

Daniel Ellis (11) won the first of the two pony races and Bridgend's Connor Brace (14) the second on *Peateaoh*.

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, who had a couple of runners at the meeting, had a double at Kempton with *Debece* in the novice hurdle and *Falcarragh* in the handicap hurdle. Both were ridden by Alan Johns and the first went off at odds of 9-2 and the second at odds of 5-1.

BRIAN LEE

NSPCC committee raises £527

THE newly-formed St Hilary NSPCC committee held their first fundraising event, a coffee morning, on Thursday, April 14.

Owing to overwhelming support this was a great success. An amazing £527 was raised and, to put this in real terms, could pay for 130 phone calls to ChildLine. The committee would like to thank everyone for their support.

The next event will be held in the autumn and full details will be announced at a later date.

A coach trip to Bath is being planned for Saturday, November 26, two days after the Christmas markets open. More details to follow.

The Bush Inn's landlord, Andrew Silva will be cycling the 140-mile 'Dragon Ride 2016' on Sunday, June 5. All proceeds go to the NSPCC and donations can be made via the Just Giving link below or via sponsorship forms at The Bush *http://click.contact.justgiving.com/?qs=1ac5900bee84227f67887d0ea00bf670a81469738321de2532cdc83221d8488f593735ec41efef8b*

Good luck, Andy! **SD**

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Barry gears up for jazz festival

BARRY is gearing up once again for another free jazz festival in various venues throughout the town, on May 20-21.

The event is being organised by volunteers with sponsorship from both the Vale Council and Barry Town Council, as well as many local businesses.

It will kick off at 5.30pm on Friday, May 20 and will be hosted in various venues including Marco's, Borough Arms, Coffee Cove, Park Hotel, Sea View Club, Wyndham Cons and the West End club.

The event is in its second year, following a successful first. Bands will include Jack Blackman, the Derek Nash Accoustic Quartet and Pro Jazz Jam. There will also be learn jazz workshops going on throughout the weekend.

"We hope to build on our successful first year and once again due to generous support, the weekend festival will be free," said Coun Richard Bertin, who was chair for the first year, handing the reigns on to teacher Gemma Collard.

"We would like as many people as possible to come down to sunny Barry and show their support for this fab event."

See what is on where during the weekend by either going to the website at www.valejazzweekend.com or by following the festival on Twitter @Vale_JazzFest.

RB

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HIGH SHERIFF'S YOUTH COMMUNITY AWARDS PRESENTED IN PENCOED

Report and photographs by KEITH E MORGAN.

ABOVE: The Lord Lieutenant singled out Mary Squire, Clerk to the Lieutenancy of Mid Glamorgan, who had received the MVO in this year's Queen's Honours.

RIGHT: Corporal Badges were presented to Olivia Davies and Timothy Salter.

MARCH 3 was a special day for young people in mid Glamorgan who received financial rewards for their work in the community from the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan Jayne James.

The awards were presented at a special awards presentation evening held at OCD (Ortho Clinical Diagnostics), Pencoed, Bridgend.

The evening was attended by representatives from all parts of the county of Mid Glamorgan.

The event speaker was the Lord Lieutenant of Mid Glamorgan, Mrs Kate Thomas, who praised the young award winners for their contributions to community life in the county and said that she had been pleased to accept the appointment of patron to the Youth Community Awards.

The High Sheriff, Jayne James, said that the scheme which had been set up in 2008, was a great success.

In this respect she was grateful to all the sponsors, and particularly grateful to OCD who hosted the awards ceremony this year and laid on a superb buffet for everyone.

The High Sheriff added that this had been a very special year when a re-launch of the scheme had been held, following which more sponsorship had been found and prizes up to £1,000 were now being offered.

In addition, the youth awards had welcomed on board several ambassadors including Roy Noble, the radio presenter.

Ethan Morgan received a highly commended prize of £75.

Chloe Rees received a highly commended prize of £75.

Elle Edwards from Brynmenyn was awarded £250.

Sarah Davidson received a highly commended prize of £75 from the High Sheriff.

Brynteg School Class 9T were awarded £150.

Katie Rivers with Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff.

Infuse Dance Group was awarded £250.

RAF Cadet Flt Sgt Jack Harris was awarded £150.

Abbie Grant was awarded £150.

'THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY'

MANY thanks to all those who supported or helped in any way at our coffee morning held at Goleu Caredig in aid of the Brain Tumour Charity.

We raised just under £200 and our next fundraising event will be in June at The Parade Gardens.

SUSAN BORGES

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk

Barber takes Welsh title in the hunt for UK's best with a razor

A DINAS POWYS barber is celebrating after being crowned Welsh champion in a national competition to find Britain's Best Wet Shaving Barber – and securing his place in the final round of the prestigious tournament.

Sean Sweeney, of Sweeney Barbershop, Castle Court, beat off razor sharp competition from 13 other barbers to retain the title at the regional final, held at Covent Garden's Envy Barbers.

As well as winning the coveted regional title, Sean will now go on to compete in the national final against seven other top barbers from across the country at this year's Barber UK.

The two-day trade show takes place at the Birmingham NEC over May 22-23, and promises to be a bigger and better celebration of British barbering than ever before.

Sean will once again attempt to impress judges on a number of criteria, including shave preparation, razor technique, post-shave routine, health and safety and overall efficiency – as well as taking on 2015 champion Luigi Caterino, who will return to defend his title

Sean Sweeney.

Sean Sweeney competing for his title.

The competition, organised by premium men's grooming brand The Bluebeards Revenge and the British Barbers' Association, is now in its third year, and saw a huge increase in the number of barbers applying for the competition for 2016.

Sean said that he was thrilled to have retained the regional title for a second year – and says he has high hopes for the national final.

"At the very least, I was determined to retain the Welsh title, so now that I have done that, I'm really pleased. But this year, I want to go one bigger, and am gearing up to show the other finalists what I'm made of at Barber UK. I've been practicing hard, and I'm confident that I've got what it takes to win. Bring it on!"

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
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COWBRIDGE CHORISTERS PERFORM IN PONTYCLUN

Cowbridge Choral Society, together with Pontypridd Choral Society, performed a concert accompanied by the City of Cardiff Symphony Orchestra at Bethel Baptist Church in Pontyclun rcently.

THE Bethel Baptist Church in Pontyclun resounded to the stirring music of Handel, Parry, Sibelius, Vaughan Williams and Karl Jenkins when Cowbridge Choral Society, together with Pontypridd Choral Society, performed a concert accompanied by the City of Cardiff Symphony Orchestra, skilfully conducted by Geoff Ryan.

The very appreciative audience were treated to 'The Armed Man' by Jenkins, together with Vaughan Williams' 'Toward The Unknown Region', Handel's 'Zadok The Priest' and Sibelius' 'Finlandia'.

New members are always welcome to join Cowbridge Choral Society, and experience is not essential. Rehearsals take place at the United Free Church, Westgate Street (opposite the police station) at 7.30pm on Thursdays.

Scouts celebrate on awards night

OVER 55 young Scouts celebrated in Barry on Thursday, April 27, at their annual awards evening.

All of their hard work, fun and determination paid off when they received their awards from Barry Town Mayor, Emma Pritchard.

The high achieving group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts received the highest awards (bronze, silver, and gold) available to their age group.

To achieve these is no easy task and they couldn't have done it without the help of the teams of dedicated adult volunteers in Barry.

Within Scouting in Barry there is a huge emphasis on training and supporting young leaders, aged 14-18 years.

Alongside their own Scouting adventures, as Explorer Scouts, these teenagers also gain valuable team building and leadership skills through volunteering.

Currently in Barry, there are 30 teenagers volunteering with the younger Scouting sections and all their hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated by the youngsters and adults alike.

At the awards evening, seven young leaders were recognised for completing different missions (leadership awards) and becoming fully qualified young leaders.

Chief Scout, Bear Grylls, said it best: "Every child has a right to have an adventure. Life is about grabbing opportunities. The prizes don't always go to the biggest, the best and strongest—they go to those who persevere.

"These are simple life lessons that Scouting teaches people.'"

Scouting is shaped by young people in partnership with adults and we are always looking for new volunteers and if you fancy a go, why not join the adventure at www.scouts.org.uk/join ?

KM

Ystradowen and District WI news

OUR May date was the annual general meeting.

This usually heralds a lot of voting and sometimes a lack of attendance, but not so, as there was virtually a full turnout and a group of visitors from Llanharry.

After the minutes of the 2015 meeting were read out and approved, we were told that the speaker for next month would talk to us about Morocco and could we therefore bring along any object so long as it was connected to a camel… a prize would be given to the most innovative.

We were then reminded that the WI calendars and diaries would shortly be available; this was followed by a presentation by one of our members of the two resolutions to go before the annual meeting in London this year.

The first resolution dealt with the provision of facilities for carers of dementia patients in all hospitals, and the second dealt with food waste and the supermarkets. The voting on these two resolutions would be passed on to London.

This was followed by the treasurer's report – and we are very healthy.

Next came the secretary's report, and Barbara Richards treated us to a resume of the year.

It was a reminder of the magistrate who addressed us last June, the flight of the Goodyear Airship over Cardiff, our hilarious Christmas panto, the goings on in the Garden Shed, the food bank lady to whom we presented over 52 kilos of food, and the very successful visit of our members to the Houses of Parliament.

The evening was rounded off by the re-election of our president Jan Foyle for another year, and her tribute to us in the form of a very clever poem. We all departed for home after what was yet another enjoyable WI evening.

GB

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Dogs should be allowed after 7pm'

I TOTALLY agree with The GEM reader quoted in last week's paper regarding the five-month dog ban on the beaches.

I have said for years that dogs should be allowed on beaches after 7pm at night as the tourists have left by then and the beaches are pretty empty.

I wouldn't entertain walking my dog in the middle of the day on a summer's evening the main beach is usually deserted.

I agree that I pay my council tax just like a non-dog owner, so all areas of the Vale should be open to me and my dog.

I don't think flagging areas off will work as most dogs won't keep within those areas, simply designate a time at the end of the day for us.

Lisa Elliott, Barry

'Dog owners need to be responsible'

BOTH my wife and I fully support the current dog ban. It's a shame that not all dog owners are responsible enough to pick up their dog's mess and dispose of it correctly.

The amount of people who just cannot be bothered or pretend not to have seen what their dog has done is astounding in this day and age.

There can be nothing worse than taking a pleasant walk on the beach, promenade or even places such as the Friar's Point area, only to find often, too late, ie just got in the car, that you have stepped in dog mess – worse would be having your children playing in the sand to find not treasure, but a handful of stinking dog mess.

So again, until everyone is responsible enough to dispose of their dog's business, keep the current ban.

Wayne and Rona Potter

'Is it naive to take voting on trust?' ASKS GEM READER

ON Thursday, May 5, like thousands of other people in Wales, I went along to my local polling booth to cast my vote in the elections to the National Assembly and also for Police and Crime Commissioner.

I was not required to provide any proof of identity – and, even more incredibly, the official poll card clearly specified – "You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote"!

When I queried the lack of security or any safeguards to protect the integrity of the ballot box, I was told – "We take voters on trust".

If this is the case, am I the only one to be concerned about the potential for abuse of a democratic system that naively relies on 'trust', particularly in a fast-changing world?

(Name and address supplied)

'Please give hard workers a break'

JANE HUTT has been re-elected for another term at the Welsh Assembly, so will this be the fourth consecutive year she rubber-stamps a council tax rise?

Does she not know that this affects hard-working people more than anyone as unemployed or people on disability get help with their council tax or pay none at all?

The working person, nowadays, is struggling while the majority of those on full disability are better off.

The genuinely disabled people deserve all the help they can get, but there are a hell of a lot of 'disabled' people who seem to walk a lot faster and more easily than I can, and I'm able-bodied.

A lot of these people seem to go through life with walking sticks until they are pensionable age, at which point they discard the walking sticks, because when you reach that age, you receive the benefits regardless!

Please give the working people a break; we're not as well off financially as those on benefits.

(Name and address supplied)

'Penny pinching leading to crime'

WE in Barry and the Vale are fed up to the back teeth of councillors' lame excuses for cuts to our essential services, with particular regard to street lighting being switched off at midnight.

As a direct result of their penny pinching attitude crime is now on the increase.

A local self employed building contractor and neieghbour, has had his works van broken into outside his house for the second time since they agreed this stupid and dangerous practice of turning off selected street lights after midnight.

He has lost all the tools of his trade for the second time since the weird plans were sanctioned and put into practice.

After the second 'break in', his insurance company has refused to pay out and refused to cover him against theft in the future.

Why do councillors not spend our money wisely in the first place and use some of the seventy million pounds plus that they have in reserve funds?

Why spend over £250,000 on the refurbishing of the council chambers when there was nothing wrong with the previous decor?

Why build cycleways that are hardly ever used? Bus lanes that cause bottlenecks?

Bus stops are built out into the traffic flow directly opposite each other in Broad Street – whose crazy plan was that?

Buses arrive simultaeniously, and travelling in opposite directions, and the whole road is completely blocked.

This is an obvious danger for ambulance, fire and police in an emergency and could also result in possible death.

Barrie V Evans, Leader 'Restore Street Lighting in the Vale' campaign.

Potholes are a 'public disgrace'

I READ with great interest the reader's letter in the April 21 GEM edition entitled 'Is the Big Fill a failure?'

Palpably, it is a colossal failure.

The appalling condition of the public highways in the Vale is a public disgrace. The roads are in a worse condition than in some third-world countries, such as Thailand and Indonesia. Why am I paying my council tax, road tax and 83 per cent purchase taxes on vehicle fuels?

The GEM would do well to organise a competition where readers are rewarded for posting photos of the largest potholes in the area and, perhaps, to coordinate a 'council tax withholding strike' until something is done.

John T Price, Barry.

THE GEM SAYS...

The new-look Assembly can set the tone

AS the sound and fury of an at times vitriolic and divisive local election campaign thankfully fades away into the distance, feuding politicians in all parties are left to reflect on the wider issues of a new five-year mandate handed out by the Welsh electorate to the much-changed National Assembly.

Few will deny that with financial austerity ever tightening its grip, major social and economic challenges still block the way ahead.

These will test the credibility of the Assembly in fulfilling its unique role as a legislative body that, thanks to an element of proportional representation, gives regional seats to political parties rather than individuals, and is thus more inclusive of the whole community than Westminster's 'first past the post' elected chamber.

This, though, surely places an extra responsibility on all Welsh Assembly members – both new and old – to guard its gravitas and ensure that lively Senedd debate does not degenerate into a sad Cardiff Bay version of the raucous Commons 'cockpit'.

At a time of discord, splits and disharmony across the national landscape, the 60 newly-elected AMs now have a fresh opportunity to raise the tone, rise above party politics, and work together to prove that 'putting the people first' is more than just a political slogan.

We can but hope.

Readers' Letters

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An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Vale AM thanks voters

I AM extremely honoured to have been re-elected to serve the Vale of Glamorgan as your AM and would like to thank voters for their support.

I was always determined to be positive throughout the campaign and deal with all questions, criticisms and feedback as openly as possible. I respect the people I represent and I learn from them on a daily basis – especially during the intensity of a campaign.

This was particularly the case with local issues I am involved in – such as when I caught the no 98 with bus passengers to check out the route and see if improvements could be made; or when I talked to the many people who believe the proposed closure of the Barry Crown Post Office, an appalling loss of service; or meeting with the people of Treoes, as they face more incursion from the local industrial estate.

Also, when supporting the Ogmore by Sea Village Hall Association who desperately need a community centre; or meeting workforce representatives and management from BAMC and Aberthaw.

I will continue to work tirelessly to serve the Vale in the way I have done for the past 17 years and secure a great many more improvements – including better bus services and a more frequent train service on the Vale line from Barry to Rhoose, Llantwit Major and Bridgend.

I will continue to support the regeneration of Barry and will back our airport, BAMC and Aston Martin.

I want to make sure there is no fracking in the Vale of Glamorgan and give our young people the best educational opportunities with new childcare promises.

I remain deeply committed to supporting vulnerable people and those who do not have a strong voice in the Vale.

I will be holding a surgery on Friday, May 13, 4pm-6pm at the Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7TZ. Please come along if I can be of any assistance – no appointment is necessary.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on 01446 740981 or email jane.hutt@assembly.wales.

Thank you once again for your support.

Jane Hutt,
Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan.

'Jane, you've got a friend in me'

I WOULD like to take the opportunity to thank everybody who voted in the Assembly elections last week.

It was fantastic to see turnout reach the highest level we have ever seen here in the Vale in an Assembly election, and although it fell some way short of turnout in the general election it was a positive step forward.

It is a huge honour and privilege to have been returned to serve as the AM for South Wales Central for the third time. I have really enjoyed representing the area I was born and brought up in since I was first elected in 2007 and I look forward to helping many more people with their issues over the next five years.

Here in the Vale, Ross England fought an excellent campaign that placed local issues at the heart of it. Be it putting a stop to proposed parking charges or working hard to prevent excessive housing development, Ross has made many significant achievements for our area and he should be proud of all he has done.

It is testament to Jane Hutt that she succeeded in being returned as the Vale's AM and I would like to congratulate her on her victory. She is well regarded and despite our political differences, I look forward to working alongside her over the next five years to deliver for the Vale.

Andrew RT Davies,
South Wales Central Regional AM

Candidate congratulates rival and pledges to continue campaigning

I WANT to send sincere congratulations to Jane Hutt for winning the Vale Assembly seat for the fifth time. She is held in great affection across the Vale and has helped innumerable local people so far as an AM.

Although I am disappointed not to have won, I am very proud of the Conservative volunteers, so ably led and organised by George Carroll and Dr Lee Gonzalez. We polled the highest number and proportion of votes ever achieved by our party here at an Assembly level and I am hugely grateful to everybody who participated in the campaign and made it possible.

My main disappointment is that I will not be able, as an AM, to prevent the council merger, stop excessive development and implement my plan to secure a better future for Barry and the rest of the Vale. I will, however, continue to campaign on local issues and hopefully make a difference from outside Cardiff Bay.

Thank you to everyone who gave me their support – I stood on a platform of protecting and improving this special part of Wales and I am sorry to all who care about the local issues I raised that I did not pull off the win we hoped for.

Ross England
(Welsh Conservative candidate for the Vale)

ARE YOU UP FOR A 'HEROES' BREAKFAST?

HELP for Heroes (H4H) is asking the nation to start the day in the best possible way; with a good deed! Their latest fundraising initiative is a great way to fundraise with friends and family or with work colleagues.

A spokesman explained: "Everyone says that breakfast is the most important part of the day, and in this case, it is! Whether you go for a healthy option, a good fry-up or try something new, a 'Heroes Breakfast' is one of the easiest way to raise funds for our heroes.

"A free fundraising pack is available to everyone who registers and includes collection boxes, a sweepstake game, balloons and Heroes Breakfast banner.

"The 'Heroes Breakfast' campaign is from June 13-26, however, if this isn't convenient, please feel free to choose a date that is. To register, or for more information, visit *www.heroesbreakfast.org.uk* or call 01980 846459."

Emma Parry, CEO and co-founder, Help for Heroes, said: "H4H is all about 'doing your bit' and this event is a wonderful example of people rallying support and having a great deal of fun while they raise money."

H4H offers comprehensive support to those who have suffered life-changing injuries and illnesses in the line of duty. This is provided through grants to individuals, other charities and organisations, capital build projects and four Recovery Centres across the UK which offer support for life.

Emma added: "The money raised by the hugely generous public has been used to support the wounded, but there is still so much more to do. Soldiers, sailors and airmen who are injured today will still need our support tomorrow and in the days that follow, for the rest of their lives. They are still battling and H4H will not let them battle alone."

So much to enjoy in Malta

MALTA'S Mediterranean island charms are winning more short-break visitors than ever as more frequent flights and an increasingly sophisticated travelling public discover that there's a lot more than just sun and sea in Malta.

The islands consist of Malta, Gozo and Comino, and the uninhabited islets of Cominotto and Filfla. The Maltese archipelago is just 93 km south of Sicily and 290 km north of Africa.

Malta attracts tourists with its unique sites such as the old capital Mdina, the St Paul's Catacombs in Rabat, Ggantija Neolithic Temples in Gozo dating back to 3,600BC – the oldest freestanding structures in the world, older than Stonehenge or the Egyptian pyramids.

Magnificent architecture from the time of the Knights of St John dominates the towns and villages.

With the capital Valletta confirmed as the 2018 European city of Culture, Malta's popularity as a tourist destination is bound to grow further.

For those seeking adventure and an adrenaline rush, popular activities include a host of sea water activities including diving and rock climbing.

In Malta, you can indulge in some great shopping in the main centres of Valletta, Sliema, and St Julian's. If you're shopping for traditional arts and crafts, look out for the renowned Malta lace, delicate silver and gold filigree or the colourful and creative Malta mouth-blown glass.

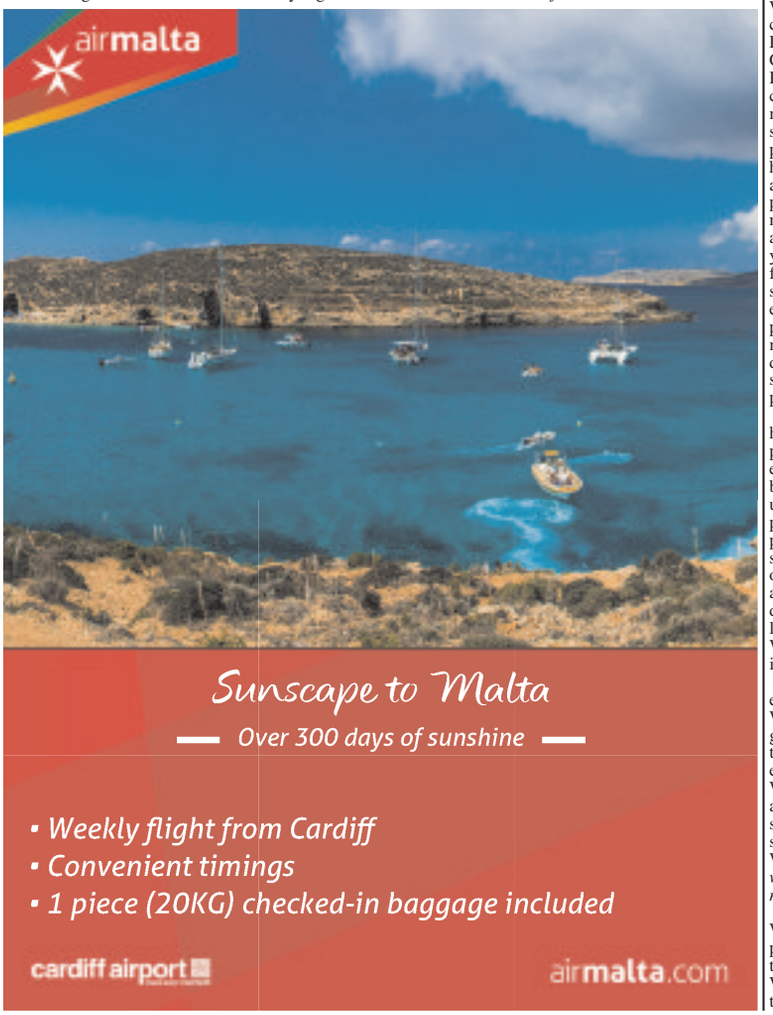
In the evenings, enjoy a buzzing night in one of Malta's many nightlife venues such as pubs, wine bars, jazz clubs, discos, nightclubs and casinos offering entertainment for all ages.

If you prefer a more relaxing setting, the stunning historical settings of Valletta, Mdina or St Julian's make the perfect backdrop to relaxation or sightseeing.

In Malta, you'll find sunshine and socialising, history and culture, plus delicious Mediterranean food and a vibrant nightlife – it is perfect for recharging energy levels and making every moment of your holiday count.

Air Malta, the islands' National Airline operates a weekly flight from Cardiff in summer, always including one free piece (20kg) checked-in baggage allowance.

For more information visit www.airmalta.com, www.facebook.com/AirMalta.



Welsh heart charity secures free screening

A HEART charity in Wales has secured free heart screening for children and adults throughout Wales, thanks to a new partnership with a cardiac diagnostic company based at Swansea University.

Welsh Hearts, which provides better access to heart screening and life-saving defibrillators across Wales, has teamed up with Swansea University's spin-out company Cardiac Health Diagnostics to launch a new heart screening service open to children over five years old, as well as adults.

The new service, Heart Screening Wales, aims to raise awareness of undiagnosed heart conditions by providing easily accessible screening services to communities in Wales.

Ian Gough, former Wales and Ospreys rugby star and patron of Welsh Hearts Cymru, is also putting his weight behind the initiative to help raise awareness of the importance of heart screening among young people.

Sharon Owen, founder and director of Welsh Hearts, said: "We cannot thank Professor Lewis and his team at Cardiac Health Diagnostics enough for collaborating with us to make this programme sustainable. Many people still associate heart disease and heart attacks with older people, but this is sadly not the case, as the alarming number of young people dying from heart conditions shows. Thanks to this exciting new partnership, we can make a massive difference and we will save lives of young people in Wales."

Statistics show that hundreds of young people die unexpectedly every year in the UK because of an undetected heart problem. The new partnership will enable screening from the age of five upwards for around 100 people during each session at locations throughout Wales using non-invasive ECG testing.

"We would like to get every heart screened in Wales. We are very grateful for all donations that we receive for this extremely important all-Wales initiative. If anyone would like to support our heart screening sessions in Wales, visit *www.welshhearts.org/donate*," said Ms Owen.

Heart Screening Wales sessions will take place on a monthly basis throughout all areas of Wales. A £10 donation to Welsh Hearts is requested at the time of booking to help them continue to fund the project.

Commenting on the new partnership, Professor Michael Lewis, Professor of Cardiovascular Diagnostic Technology at Swansea University and Director at Cardiac Health Diagnostics, said: "We are delighted to have established this relationship with Welsh Hearts. It is extremely rewarding to be helping to identify heart problems in young children and adults. CHD was established to help translate our research and clinical expertise into a diagnostic service that could potentially have a marked impact on a young person's life.

"We believe that our collaboration in providing this screening service will have a significant role in helping to reduce the number of sudden, unexpected heart problems through-out Wales."

For more heart screening dates and locations visit www.welshhearts.org/heartscreeningwales.

(See also story page 12.)

The working pigs of Dyffryn gardens.

Pigs join workforce at Dyffryn Gardens

TWO pigs have joined the gardening staff team at Dyffryn Gardens this spring. The working pigs, which arrived at Dyffryn on April 23, will be in charge of turning over the earth to ready the soil for planting in the autumn.

'Oxford sandy and blacks' are domestic pigs originating from Oxfordshire, and are named for their sandy and black spotted colouring.

Once settled in and used to their surroundings, visitors will also be able to help give the hungry pair their lunch. Feeding will take place twice a day, once in the early morning and again at 2pm.

Chris Flynn, head gardener at Dyffryn said: "Introducing pigs to Dyffryn will be a first for our gardens. While it was common historically for livestock to be held in kitchen gardens, we don't have any records to show that there were any in ours so it'll be a great new spectacle.

"The pigs will be very much a part of the garden team and will be readying the ground for planting in the autumn."

For more information on feeding times and availability, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens.

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PICTURED (left to right): Bethan Thomas, Zoila Garcia Mancebo, Andy Ursell, Brandon Blake, James Gradkowski and CAVC's Shane Colhoun.

STUDENTS WIN COFFEE BAR COMPETITION!

A TEAM of Level 3 IT students from Cardiff and Vale College have won a competition to design a website and app for the college's café, Bae Coffi.

Students Bethan Thomas, Brandon Blake, James Gradkowski and Zoila Garcia Mancebo beat off the competition with their winning web and smart phone application designs, winning £300. The team will now explore coding the designs to make them a reality.

Bae Coffi is a café located in the college's city centre campus on Dumballs Road. The high-end café offers speciality coffee and quality food sourced locally and also acts as an events venue and hub for the community.

CAVC commercial retail manager Andy Ursell said: "We were really impressed by the quality of work that was put forward – and especially by the designs submitted by Bethan, Brandon, James and Zoila. We look forward to making their ideas a reality for Bae Coffi."

Ian Gough's heart scare led to him helping Welsh charity

WALES rugby star Ian Gough has become a patron for Wales' leading heart charity after he opened up about his own heart scare earlier this year.

The former Ospreys player was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation – an irregular and abnormally fast heart rate following a heart screening session.

Now fighting fit after an operation in March, Ian is teaming up with Welsh Hearts Cymru to provide better access to heart screening and life-saving defibrillators across Wales.

He said: "I can't stress how important it is to get your heart screened. It could save your life. After experiencing shortness of breath and exhaustion after just few minutes of playing rugby or running, I finally went for a heart screening to try and get to the bottom of the symptoms. The diagnosis knocked me for six."

Atrial fibrillation can cause dizziness, shortness of breath, extreme tiredness and heart palpitations. A normal heart rate should be regular and between 60 and 100 beats a minute when you're resting but, in cases of atrial fibrillation, the heart's upper chambers contract randomly and sometimes so fast that the heart muscle cannot relax properly between contractions. This reduces the heart's efficiency and performance.

"Luckily my diagnosis was not life threatening, but that is not always the case," said Ian.

"Over 600 young people die every year in the UK because of undetected heart conditions. It is like a ticking time bomb. My experience really opened my eyes to the importance of heart screening.

"I am thrilled to be a patron for Welsh Hearts Cymru. The charity does amazing work highlighting the importance of screenings and raising awareness for the need for more defibrillators in businesses, schools and other venues around Wales."

Welsh Hearts offers free heart screening sessions across Wales for children over five years old as well as adults.

Sharon Owen, founder and director of Welsh Hearts, said: "We are tackling two important issues – detecting previously undiagnosed heart conditions so that people can get the right treatment before it's too late, and ensuring that people having a cardiac arrest have a better chance of survival by having access to a defibrillator.

"Every second counts if you are in cardiac arrest and there are 8,000 sudden cardiac arrests outside of hospitals every year in Wales. The survival rate is just three percent.

"Having easy access to a defibrillator can help other people restart that person's heart and save their life. Survival rates can increase to 50 per cent when a defibrillator is used but the response has to be quick. That's why we are trying to get as many defibrillators into public places in Wales as we can. We also provide free CPR training.

"It's so inspiring that Ian has opened up and talked about how heart screening helped him in order to save more lives. We are delighted that he is now our patron.

"Screening sessions cost the charity £5,000 per session for a full day and we cannot continue delivering these sessions without your financial support! Please support this worthwhile cause and help save lives in Wales."

For details on free heart screening sessions near you or to donate to the cause, visit www.welshhearts.org or call 02929 647735.

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Wednesday, May 19 at 10.30am, the Barry coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap Barry.

On Thursday, May 19 at 10am, Crwydro, Gorsaf Rheilffordd, Penarth.

Also from Thursday, May 19 to Sunday, May 22, the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place. See www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk.

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Gwyl Coleridge festival arrives in Penarth

SINGER Richard Parry, along with artists, poets, musicians, actors, philosophers and others, is following the route of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's two tours of Wales.

Locally, the main events are as follows:

Friday, May 13, 7pm All Saints Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, Codi Hwyl with choirs, singers and instrumentalists to entertain. Tickets £3 at the door; activities for children begin at 6pm.

Saturday, May 14, 10.30am in Windsor Arcade, Windsor Road, Penarth, flash mob – spontaneous singing around Penarth.

Sunday, May 15, 9am, service on the *Ancient Mariner* berthed near Pier 64, Penarth Marina, led by Rev Mark Jones and Rev Elfed Jones. The service will last for 20 minutes and the Salvation Army Band will accompany the singing of two hymns.

In the afternoon in Cardiff Bay, the *Ancient Mariner* will depart with singing on the steps of the Senedd.

Richard is from Penarth and is taking on the role of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Richard's tour is taking 80 days round Wales – very similar to that which Coleridge undertook over 200 years ago, culminating in a celebration in the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny in this August.

Coleridge met Iolo Morgannwg one of the founders of the modern National Eisteddfod which inspired him to make the journey around Wales.

KEITH HOWELLS

Bestselling author Jessie Burton to tour south Wales

THREE south Wales independent bookshops have collaborated to arrange for bestselling author of 'The Miniaturist', Jessie Burton, to visit their respective locations as part of a forthcoming book tour.

Griffin Books in Penarth, Cover to Cover in Mumbles and Bookish in Crickhowell, worked closely with publishers Pan Macmillan to arrange the events which will take place on July 26 and 27.

Mel Griffin, owner of Griffin Books, said: "I'm delighted to be working with other local bookshops to bring a top name author to the area. 'The Miniaturist' was extremely popular with both individual readers and book groups, and I'm sure that Jessie's new novel will be equally well received."

'The Miniaturist', Burton's debut novel, has sold more than a million copies, was in the Sunday Times top 10 for three months and was Waterstones' Book of the Year for 2014, among many other accolades and awards.

Her second novel 'The Muse', which will be published on June 30, is set in the art world, with the action alternating between London and rural Spain and centring on the secrets and obsessions that lie behind a rediscovered masterpiece.

The Penarth event, at which Burton will read from 'The Muse', answer audience questions and sign copies of the book, will be a literary lunch hosted by Griffin Books at the Holm House Hotel on Marine Parade.

Call 02920 706455 to reserve a place.

What's on, and where?

History society talk

PENARTH Local History Society will host a talk entitled 'William Burgess' by Richard Britton at 7.30pm on Thursday, May 12 (tonight) at All Saints Church Lesser Hall, Penarth. New members are always welcome.

Councillors' surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns. Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges at The Community Room, The County Library, King Square, Barry from 11am until 12 midday on Saturday, May 14. No appointments are necessary.

Art society

ON Thursday, May 12, Cowbridge Art society welcomes Cardiff artist and lecturer David Gould, who will demonstrate various techniques of incorporating three dimensional effects and textures to paintings (see www.davidpaulgould.co.uk).

On Thursday, May 19, there is a demonstration by Cardiff artist Julie Shakston titled 'Alchemy', which is about exploring processes in mixed media.

The society meets each Thursday 7pm-9pm at Old Hall, Cowbridge, and visitors and new members are welcome (occasional visitors fee £3).

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Table top sale

A TABLE top sale takes place at the market in Peterston-Super-Ely Church and Community Hall on Saturday, May 14 from 10am-12 noon, entry is free and everyone is most welcome.

To book a table and for further details, contact Pat on 01446 760267, or pat.cadwalladr@tiscali.co.uk.

This takes place at the usual village market which is held on the second Saturday of every month from 10am–12noon, selling homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and an extensive collection of books.

Freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee and teas are served. All proceeds go towards the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

Cowbridge U3A History Group

THE next Cowbridge U3A History Group meeting will be a talk entitled 'The Medieval Wall Paintings in Llancarfan Church' by Professor Maddy Gray, at 10am on Thursday, May 19 in the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge Town Hall.

See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge for further information.

Christian Aid Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning to support Christian Aid takes place on Saturday, May 21 at 10.30am-12.30pm at St David's Methodist Church, Winston Road, Barry.

For more information, contact Deacon Samantha Taylor, Methodist minister, on 01446 406262.

Musical evening

AN evening with Cantorion Pontyclun Ladies Choir, Half Tidy and Fynnon Folk Duo will take place on Friday, June 3 at 7.30pm at Pontyclun Institute Athletic Club.

The tickets (£8 each) include a light supper and are available from Pontyclun Community Shop, The Pontyclun Athletic Club, Ann Williams the Chemist in Pontyclun, Giles Gallery in the village, or can be purchased at the door on the evening.

Contact Dorothy Davey on 01443 228399 or see the Cantorion website.

St Peter's Church

A BUSY weekend this weekend for St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys – on Saturday, May 14, the Messy Church Fun Day takes place in the church grounds; entry £1 and all proceeds will go to Christian Aid.

On Sunday, to mark the start of Christian Aid week, there will be a Songs of Praise service in St Peter's with Haydn Jones and the Ecumenical Seven. The evening starts at 6pm and there will be refreshments after the service

St Peter's Church in Mill Road, Dinas Powys is now open every Friday from 11.30 until 2pm.

For more information on both St Andrews and St Peters Churches see our website, www.stpetersdinaspowys.org.uk.

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Michael, Beryl and Joan celebrate 10 YEARS at The Victoria Inn, Sigingstone

The Victoria Inn has everything you could ask of a country pub

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE nature of the pub trade these days is that landlords and landladies often stay a few years and then move on, but that is definitely not the case at the Victoria Inn, Sigingstone.

At this truly traditional country pub, Michael and Beryl O'Leary, and Michael's mother Joan, are celebrating their 10th anniversary in business there – and they have marked it with an extensive refurbishment.

The bar has been enlarged, complete with a welcoming woodburner, a wood floor has been laid, and new toilets have been installed – all part of their philosophy of investing for the long term.

Michael and his parents, Joan and Peter, ran two other pubs before the Victoria Inn – the Glenbrook in Barry and the Green Dragon in Llancadle – and they stayed just over 10 years in each of those too.

Sadly, Peter passed away four years ago, but the family tradition continues undiminished.

The Victoria Inn now boasts a large dining room that keeps three chefs busy. They serve food all day long on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, and on the other four days of the week, the restaurant is open from 12 to 2.30pm, and then from 6pm to 9pm.

Sunday is a big day, with a choice of four different roasts, and vegetarian options, from 12 noon to 4pm, but with the regular menu running on into the evening.

The accent in the restaurant is on traditional, home-cooked fare, with good value and high quality at its core.

Having local produce is really important to the O'Learys and some customers have a special interest in that!

Beryl explained: "We buy all our meat from the Farmers' Pantry in Llantwit Major, and we have noticed that when a particular farm's meat is on the menu, the farmer will book in for a meal to see how we are serving it!"

You would expect a traditional country pub to pride itself on its beer, and the Victoria Inn always has two real ales on tap.

Doombar is a popular regular, and on the day The GEM called, Evan Evans was taking its turn at the bar. Michael likes to have Welsh real ales whenever possible.

In the restaurant are (left to right): Anna, Katie, and Joan, Michael and Beryl O'Leary.

However, tradition is only a good thing up to a point, and the pub has taken account of people's changing drinking habits.

An excellent range of wines is available, both by the glass and by the bottle. The days when wine was only consumed with a meal are long gone.

Michael added: "I make a point of paying a bit more for our wine to make sure the quality is high. I'm well aware that people will judge you on the quality of your wine."

Things don't stand still at the Victoria Inn. Three years ago Michael and Beryl decided that the space upstairs needed a rethink, and he set about converting it into four high-quality bedrooms for bed and breakfast.

He did all the work himself, and the result is that, after only three years, the Inn already has a number of regulars, with guests from all over the world.

One guest was in the process of selling up in the Vale and moving abroad, and ended up staying three months!

Michael said: "We get wedding guests, as there are so many wedding venues in the area, and guests who are doing business in the area.

"As well as that, more and more are using us as a great base to stay when exploring the Vale."

Combining a modern dining experience with the comforts of a country pub could be a difficult balance, but customers are always welcome here, relaxing with a drink after the diners have finished their meal.

Part of the newly-refurbished bar.

The pub is joining the local darts league when the new season starts in September, and regulars in the bar will soon be able to enjoy Sky Sports – another extra service.

It has wi fi and the bar area is now 'dog friendly' – giving visitors a chance to enjoy the restaurant menu with their pet.

There is even some complimentary dog food! The customer really is king at the Victoria Inn.

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Lesotho's invisible drought is highlighted on S4C show

WHEN looking at photographs of Lesotho you could easily be fooled that the country does not have any problems.

However, the green landscap, following recent showers, masks the effect of the worst drought in over 40 years.

Today (May 12), S4C is screening a programme hosted by the broadcaster Gary Owen.

Gary and his film crew were astounded by the impact of the drought on the people of Lesotho.

He said: "I first visited Lesotho in 2005 to cover the HIV/Aids crises for BBC Cymru Wales. The country is now facing another crisis...drought. I spoke to people who are really struggling and facing malnutrition and hunger. The winter is setting in now in Lesotho and temperatures will plummet. It is a very worrying time for this small mountain kingdom, twinned with Wales."

With 80 per cent of the country's population dependent on agriculture, this year's shortage of water has destroyed crops, resulting in the worst harvest in years.

According to statistics, one in three suffers from food shortages and are concerned about how they will survive the winter. The food and water shortages have led to an increase in violence with one village stealing from another and a substantial increase in food prices.

The price of a sack of maize, one of the country's staple foods, has tripled and is now too expensive for a significant percentage of the population.

Children are dependent on the meals provided at school – the watery porridge for breakfast and 'pap' and vegetables, either beans, cabbage or spinach, for lunch.

Many, because of the impact of the drought, will not have any food at home. Families have had to slaughter their animals because they cannot feed them and the saying 'a cow's mouth is her fate' certainly rings true.

The charity, Dolen Cymru Lesotho, established in 1985, which was the first twinning of two countries, aims to raise money to help the people of Lesotho.

Dolen Cymru has been supporting development activities in Lesotho for over 30 years with a focus on education, health and community.

Currently, there are five teachers working in Wales Thaba Tseka region helping to improving literacy. In addition, there was a health worker working in the same area on hygiene and the importance of hand washing to avoid diseases.

Dolen Cymru, in partnership with the charity Send a Cow (www.sendacow.org/lesotho), is raising money to buy seeds and to create gardens keyholes. We are also launching the 'School Feeding Project' by investing in school gardens.

If you want to support the work of Dolen Cymru Lesotho and contribute to the Drought Appeal please visit our website- http://www.waleslesotholink.org/seeds or contact our office in Cardiff on 029 2049 7390 | swyddfa@dolencymru.org.

Diabetes support is out there

READERS across Glamorgan who have a child living with Type 1 diabetes will know how serious this lifelong condition is.

It is vital that they get the right advice and support to help manage their child's diabetes and help them live life to the full.

This is why I am writing to raise awareness of the new Number 1 bag, which we have developed with Diabetes UK Cymru to help children living with the condition in the area.

We are partnering with local paediatric diabetes clinics to give these bags out to every family in the area so that they have access to advice that they can trust. The bag is packed full of useful information that will support parents, children and young people at every stage of their diabetes journey.

There are also lots of handy resources including a guide to help make sure your child is safe when staying away from home, a pack to make sure they're supported at school and information on the support available from Diabetes UK Cymru and the Network.

While your healthcare team will always be there to support you, having access to the right information is invaluable. Make sure you ask for your Number 1 Bag at your next clinic appointment.

Dr Chris Bidder,
Consultant Paediatrician and chair of the Children and Young People's Wales Diabetes Network,
www.cypdiabetesnetwork.nhs.uk/wales

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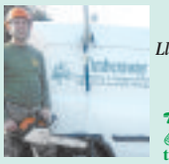

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FLORAL SOCIETY

ON Tuesday, May 17, members of the Barry Floral Society will watch a demonstration by Beverly Clay of Cardiff entitled 'Some of my favourite places'.

Then, on Tuesday, May 24, the theme is 'Munches and Bunches' when members and friends will view a display of floral arrangements, followed by a short demonstration of designs by the Rev Kevin Davies, followed by afternoon tea.

Both events take place at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 2.15pm.

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20th May - Teddy Bears Picnic
27th May - Open Morning
11th June - Summer Fete

St Clare's, Porthcawl would like to thank The GEM for their excellent editorial and photographs celebrating our pupils' sporting and academic achievements.

(01656) 789966 www.stclares-school.co.uk

A HUGE 'THANK YOU' TO OUR READERS AND ADVERTISERS

by Sir Ray Tindle

'LOCAL Newspaper Week' is when this newspaper, still family-owned and totally independent, renews its pledge to support the Vale and Bridgend county borough and to ensure that our readers can rely on us to speak up when the need arises.

Even more important, it is a time when we can thank you, our readers and advertisers, for all you have done for our community over the past year. Your efforts are always greatly appreciated and we want you to know we are right behind you.

We are most fortunate in being able to say that throughout this period of austerity our readers and our traders have continued to support our towns and our charities.

Local businesses rely so much on local support and we are glad to say that, once again, this has consistently been given. Our local charities, as well as our traders, will be very glad indeed if we really are through the worst.

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council
Councillor Frederick Johnson
wishes to congratulate
The Glamorgan GEM
on their reporting of local news & community issues and thanks them for their support during his year of office.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y
Cynghorydd Frederick Johnson
longyfarch aelodau staff
Y Glamorgan GEM
ar eu gwaith yn cyflwyno newyddion lleol a materion cymunedol, a diolch iddynt am eu holl gefnogaeth yn ystod ei flwyddyn yn y swydd.

Local pupils get to be movie makers

St Clare's pupils behind the camera.

YEAR-6 pupils from St Clare's School, Porthcawl, visited the Sony UK Technology Centre as part of the Sony Schools Digital Literacy Programme.

St Clare's was one of six schools selected to go to the South Wales Academy this term. Pupils had the opportunity to make a 'Film in a Day', assuming roles such as editor, director, scriptwriter, actors or extras.

They used the latest professional technology to produce a three-minute film. Pupils were assigned roles and split into groups to work on familiarising themselves with the technology and working on the skills required to develop the video.

Using the skills learnt in the morning session, pupils worked together to put all they had learned into action. After a few practice runs, the pupils went live, and it was recorded on to a DVD for the school.

Representatives from each school taking part will be invited to a special Sony showcasing event, where their film will be shown using the large Istadia outdoor screen.

At the event, Sony will chose the winning film.

The chosen school will win a variety of amazing prizes, including a stadium technology tour, 20 Raspberry Pis or a Sony UK Tec supporting a school's outdoor event such as a sport day, providing a live broadcast of the event using the Istadia large outdoor screen! Fingers crossed!

M&S employees help to raise £12,000 for Breast Cancer Centre

EMPLOYEES and customers at M&S Culverhouse Cross have raised over £12,000 for the Breast Centre in Cardiff following a year packed with fundraising activities.

Matthew Murphy-Kitto, M&S community champion at Culverhouse Cross, said: "Each year, every M&S store selects a local charity as part of our commitments to contribute to our local community.

"The Breast Centre provides vital services that are well known to our customers, colleagues, and the wider community, and we are so pleased to have raised over £12,000 to support their work. Thank you to everyone who donated throughout the year!"

The money was raised through a variety of in-store activities, including in-store cycling challenges, a sponsored Pen y Fan hike and raffles.

Mr Sumit Goyal, consultant oncoplastic surgeon at The Breast Centre Cardiff, said: "We were delighted to be chosen as M&S Culverhouse Cross' local charity of the year. I would like to personally thank all the generous staff members and customers who made this possible.

"The donation will help us to continue to provide first class and innovative treatment and complementary therapy sessions to breast cancer patients in Cardiff and the Vale.

"Fundraising such as this allows us to increase nurse hours and provide exercise equipment to hold sessions with breast cancer sufferers, which can improve the patient's ability to undergo chemotherapy treatment."

BARRY Comprehensive SCHOOL
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The Glamorgan GEM
for the editorial and photographs celebrating Barry Comprehensive School's continued success.
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Carwyn Jones AM

Assembly Member for Bridgend

Local newspapers play a vital role. I would like to congratulate The GEM on its coverage of local issues and its continued support in covering local political stories.

carwynjones.org.uk
Tel: 01656 664320

Photo Credit Natasha Hirst

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
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JANE HUTT AM
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Thursday 16th June 2016 from 6pm-7.30pm
We are pleased to support our local newspaper who continually report our news and pupils' achievements.

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www.pencoedcs.bridgend.sch.uk/ 01656 867100
admin.pencoedcomp@bridgend.gov.uk

Llantwit Major School
Ysgol Llanilltud Fawr
would like to invite you to their
Art, Textiles and Design & Technology Exhibition
being held on
Thursday, 30 June 2016 from 5.30-7pm
The staff and students would like to thank **The GEM** in helping to celebrate the success of Llantwit Major School.
Llantwit Major School, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major, CF61 1TQ
Tel 01446 793301 www.llantwitschool.org.uk

'Black Belt Hall of Fame' for Barry man

Ian Bishop.

The 'Hall of Fame' certification.

IAN BISHOP, who lives in Barry, has just won the British Black Belt Hall of Fame 2016.

Ian (48) said: "At the event on April 24, I set a new world martial arts record of 19 power punches in .96 of a second!

"I also equalled it last Saturday at the UK martial arts show in Doncaster, in front of the press, Martial Arts Illustrated and Bill 'super foot' Wallace.

"My previous world record was set at the WMO World Championship last October."

Ian dedicated his recent records to martial arts legend Steve Babbs who passed away recently.

Ian, who lives on Barry Road, added: "I'm the founder of the 'Transporter' mixed martial arts system, and a master instructor.

"I've been training since 1975, and won the world martial arts hall of fame last year."

To see Ian in action, to to the following link: https://youtu.be/MHVH2FEfzC4

Kayaker is rescued by Whitmore Bay lifeguards

RNLI lifeguards on Whitmore Bay assisted a kayaker who got into difficulty on Sunday, May 8.

Two kayakers were 150m offshore when one fell out and started drifting further away from his craft. RNLI senior lifeguard Laura Bremner and lifeguard Rhydian Price saw the incident unfold and quickly alerted Mark Griffiths, who was patrolling water's edge between the red and yellow flags.

Mark grabbed the rescue board and paddled out to the man – who by now had started to panic and was calling for help. The kayaker was assisted onto the rescue board and safely taken back to shore.

The volunteers of Cold Knap Surf Lifesaving Club launched their inshore rescue boat and brought the empty kayak back to shore. Thankfully the man was unharmed and no further assistance was required.

RNLI lifeguards will provide a daily safety service on Whitmore Bay between 10am-6pm throughout the summer season.

A new room to say 'I do' at the Vale Resort

The Vale Resort's popular wedding venue.

THE Vale Resort in Hensol, south Wales, has invested £75,000 in refurbishing one its most popular rooms for weddings as it gears up for a bumper year of nuptials.

The new-look conservatory has been upgraded with the installation of a solid ceiling, complete with sky lights, and floor-to-ceiling renaissance style mirrors, creating an open space filled with natural light.

Situated at the rear of the four-star resort, the new orangery-style room overlooks one of the resort's 18-hole golf courses with views on to a lake and woodland that sit within 650-acres of countryside.

The conservatory can be used for both wedding ceremonies and breakfasts, accommodating 120 guests for a ceremony and 70 for a reception.

The refurbishment is part of a £400,000 investment programme at the resort this year, which will see upgrades to its conference and event suites, a facelift to the Vale Bar and the extension of the a la carte restaurant.

Stephanie Metson, marketing manager at the Vale Resort, said: "The conservatory is a room that we are extremely proud to show to prospective brides and grooms and, more generally, all of our customers.

"It really is a room with a view, and with the new floor-to-ceiling mirrors it means that the rolling green outlook is reflected across all aspects of the room, whether you're sitting at the front or back.

"Last year was a record-breaking year for weddings across the resort, with 31 couples celebrating their big day with us in August 2015 alone, and, looking ahead to our bookings this financial year, we're already on track to exceed last year.

"Our planned investments at the resort are all about making sure that we remain best in class and stay at the top of our game when it comes to providing the best setting and services for a couple's big day."

New bus timetable

THE Vale Council is pleased to announce the introduction of timetable amendments that will welcome visitors to the region during the summer months and provide a better service for residents.

The council, together with Penarth Town Council, have again provided financial support for the enhanced running of the weekend and bank holiday summer Service 91 (Cardiff – Cosmeston Country Park and Lakes via Cardiff Bay, Penarth Marina, Penarth Town Centre and Pier) operated by Cardiff Bus.

Additional shorter journeys, running between Penarth Marina (Barrage roundabout) and Cosmeston Country Park and Lakes, are also being provided to improve links with Penarth and its local attractions for visitors arriving in the area on foot after crossing the barrage. The service will run on Saturdays, Sundays and on bank holiday Mondays until Sunday, September 25.

Following requests from local residents, negotiations with Cardiff Bus have resulted in the 95A service (Cardiff City Centre – Penarth) being re-scheduled, with financial support being provided to serve Penarth Heights running via High Street and Arcot Street en route, as well as the Cowslip estate.

To achieve this, the service has been re-numbered for three routes; 95A, 95B and 95C. Services 95A and 95B will run between Cardiff and Penarth Town Centre on the same routes, but in opposite directions to each other in the Penarth area. The 95C will run between Cardiff City Centre and Leckwith Park and Ride (Cardiff City Stadium) only. These changes took effect from Monday, April 25.

For timetable information on Services 91 or 95A/B/C, visit www.cardiffbus.com or www.traveline.cymru, or call 0300 200 22 33.

James Savory is honoured by Vale Mayor

Jane Hutt AM, Mr James Savory, Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Fred Johnson.

ON behalf of the Vale Council, outgoing Mayor, Coun Fred Johnson was delighted to welcome James Savory, his family and honoured guests to Barry County Library to celebrate his name being added to added to the 'Hall of Fame'.

James has won gold, silver and bronze medals as a sprint kayaker and artistic gymnast.

The wall of fame was instigated in 2008, to recognise sporting and cultural achievements for individuals who have excelled in their field.

The Mayor said: "James Savory has excelled all his life, and is not only a credit to himself his family and his friends, but is an inspirational role model to aspiring young athletes and all young people. He is a first class ambassador for the Special Olympics world games, and it is our absolute honour to include him in the wall of Fame".

'Friends' group enjoy lunch at Barry College

'FRIENDS and Neighbours' paid a visit to the Glamorgan Suite Barry College as part of its programme.

Members enjoyed a three-course lunch followed by tea/coffee served by the catering and hospitality students at various levels in their training. The food was tastefully presented and well enjoyed by all.

The members were very impressed at the way the tables were decorated and the setting of the room. They enjoyed the students making a fuss of them as they served the food and drinks.

It was great to see the students chatting to the members and it was a wonderful way of integrating the young and the older generation.

During the lunch, Gay Fifield (coordinator of the group) announced the engagement of two of the members, Ernest Burt and Jean Lewis. She wished them well and said how pleased everyone was for them. The members applauded them and also wished them well.

A vote of thanks was given to the hospitality students. The members are now looking forward to their fish and chip lunch with entertainment at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall.

Contact 01446 400044 for further information.

GF

Welsh Hearts Team at St Richard Gwyn

A WELSH Hearts Team were in Barry at St Richard Gwyn School to screen 100 young people with the support of Barry and District Soroptimists. Jane Hutt met Geraint Owen and his mum Sharon Owen – his heart test was fine!

GEM LETTERS EXTRA

Schoolgirls' short skirts were 'inappropriate'

I was driving to work recently and stopped at traffic lights as some local schoolgirls crossed the road.

I was astonished by how short their skirts were. In my day, we would sometimes fold over our waistband, but they were nowhere near as short as this.

Their skirts were very, very short and tight-fitting. I don't believe they were appropriate.

Don't schools have a policy on this? These were girls not yet 16 and were trying to look 20 years old.

(Name and address supplied)

'Litter wardens and dog patrols are needed'

THE restriction of dogs on the beaches is fair. I live on the Knap and have done for over 20 years.

Every day I see dog walkers arrive by car, or by foot and turn a blind eye to their dog fouling the pavements, the path and grass around the lake, and on the prom/beach.

It's not so bad during the winter when we have more rain, but during the summer the smell can be absolutely disgusting and very unsightly. People cannot sit on two thirds of the Knap because of this.

Yes, I know that it is only a minority of dog owners that are not cleaning up after their pet, but a line has to be drawn somewhere. Until Barry has official dog patrol/litter wardens who can hand out stiff penalties then all dog owners should comply with the bye laws. A warden would collect 10 times his salary in a week.

(Name and address supplied)

'Save Rhoose election pain'

OH no, not another election, the people of Rhoose deserve a break as do the rest of us.

Do we need another election? Surely the veteran councillor Jeff James is more than capable of holding the fort for a few months? By the time a councillor is elected there will only be five full council meetings left to attend before the next council elections in May 2017.

Do we really want to spend more money on the ambitions of political activists, I suspect the people of Rhoose would rather see the £000's this election will cost spent on libraries instead?

Dennis Harkus, FocusBARRY member.

National Trust coach trip

THE Vale of Glamorgan Association of National Trust members is running a day trip to Croome, Worcester.

The coach leaves Cowbridge Town Hall at 9.15am on Wednesday, May 18.

Enquiries to vofgant@gmail.com.

The Vale count – long day's journey into night, and the next morning, before AM announced

Jane Hutt, the victorious AM, spoke to the media minutes after the declaration.

It's 7.15am and the result is announced. (Left to right): Ian Johnson, Jane Hutt, Alison Haden, Ross England, Denis Campbell, and Lawrence Andrews.

AS members of the political parties gathered at Barry Leisure Centre to observe the votes being counted in the election for the Vale's Assembly Member one rumour predicted a low turnout – and that Jane Hutt's tenure might be in danger.

In fact, that rumour was wrong on both counts: the turnout increased to 53 per cent from 46.7 per cent in 2011, and Jane Hutt was elected for a fifth time.

One old Plaid election hand confided at 11.30pm: "Jane's won this, but with a reduced majority."

And so it proved. Despite being targeted by the Conservatives in an intense campaign, when the dust had settled, she had secured a 777 vote majority over the young Conservative challenger, Ross England. Ian Johnson of Plaid held off Lawrence Campbell of UKIP to win third place.

The result was finally announced at 7.15am.

The other parties were all more than 10,000 votes adrift of Labour and the Conservatives.

Results:
Jane Hutt (Labour) 14,655 votes.
Ross England (Conservative) 13,878.
Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru) 3,871
Lawrence Andrews (UKIP) 3,662
Denis Campbell (Lib Dem) 938
Alison Haden (Green) 798.

The Lib Dem and Green candidates both lost their deposit.

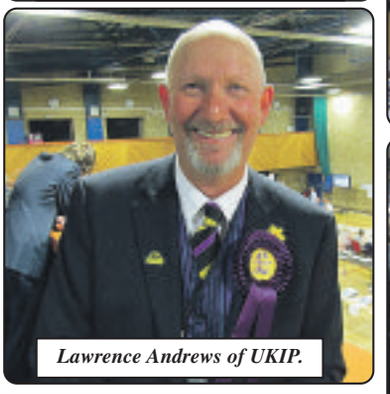
The Conservatives claimed two Assembly seats in the South Wales Central region.

In fact, it was no change for the Tories, as the same two AMs, Leader Andrew RT Davies and David Melding, were returned.

Plaid Cymru still have a regional seat but, because Leanne Wood took a seat in her own right, beating Labour's Leighton Andrews in Rhondda, it means that Neil McEvoy from Cardiff takes her place.

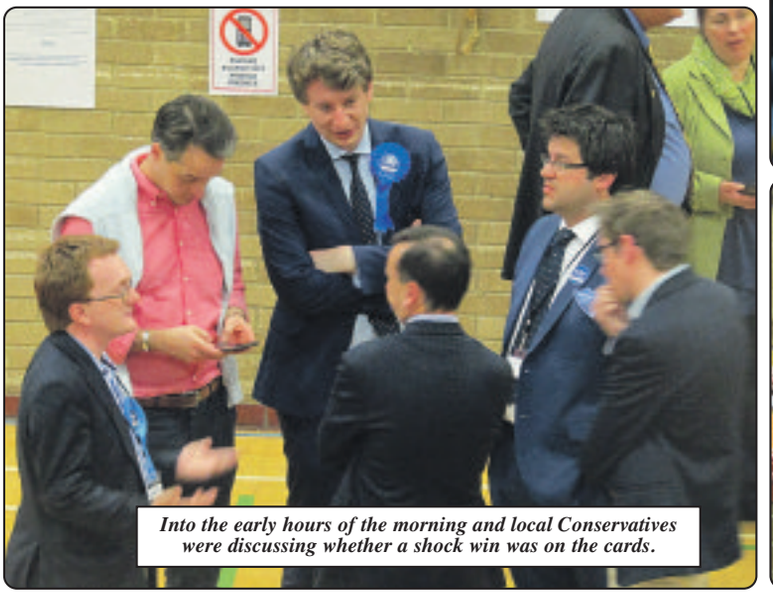
Finally, to cap a disastrous night for the Lib Dems, Elenud Parrott lost her regional seat, and has been replaced by UKIP's Gareth Bennett.

Jane Hutt has now won five elections in the Vale.

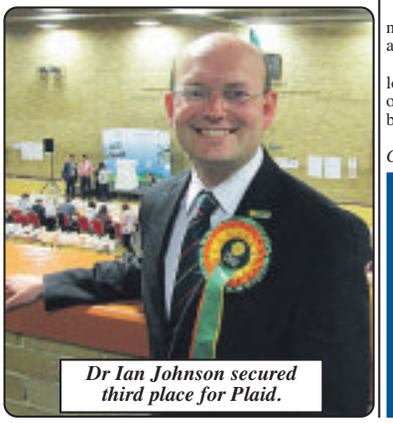


Lawrence Andrews of UKIP.

The Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns MP, attended the count at Barry Leisure Centre.



Into the early hours of the morning and local Conservatives were discussing whether a shock win was on the cards.



Dr Ian Johnson secured third place for Plaid.

Candy is a sweet cat!

"HI, I am Candy. I am currently the oldest cat waiting for adoption at Bridgend Adoption Centre.

"I found myself looking for a new home through no fault of my own, as my owner became unwell and could no longer look after me.

"I am a sweet and affectionate girl who is looking for a quiet home where I can relax and live out my golden years. Please don't overlook me because of my age."

Contact Cats Protection, Bridgend Adoption Centre, on 01656 724396.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

ADVERTISEMENT

Coastal Event pop-up pilot launched Calling all interested parties

Creative Rural Communities (CRC) has launched a pilot scheme to give businesses the opportunity to trial event pop-ups at Dunraven Bay, Southerndown.

THE Coastal Communities project is offering experienced businesses and organisations who want the opportunity to trial an event at Dunraven Bay, in the Glamorgan Heritage Coast assistance with event planning, licencing, logistics, marketing & practical requirements in order to run & adapt their events successfully in a coastal location.

CRC, the Vale of Glamorgan's rural regeneration initiative, hopes businesses & organisations will come forwards to trial events in areas such as arts, performance, sport, craft and food.

The pop-up pilot is part of a series of projects being undertaken along the Heritage Coast thanks to Coastal Communities and Rural Development programme funding. The Coastal Communities funding was awarded to help boost the economic potential of the area. In addition, five new storage units, created to encourage local businesses and beach activity providers to use the coast as a base, will soon be available to hire & are situated adjacent to the Heritage Coast Centre. A newly improved beach slipway at Dunraven Bay has also been recently completed. Due to the funding boost from the Coastal Communities fund, an officer is also in place to offer business support to both existing and new Glamorgan Heritage Coast businesses.

With an increasing trend in event pop-ups becoming more popular, especially in other Heritage Coast designations such as Cornwall

and Dorset, there is an opportunity to replicate similar events on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. It is hoped the event pop-ups will showcase the Glamorgan Heritage Coast to visitors and attract new footfall to the area whilst also providing exciting activities for local residents in the immediate and surrounding areas.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration Councillor Lis Burnett said "We have decided to launch an event pop-up pilot under the Coastal Communities initiative & our local development programme to give an opportunity for businesses to trial events in a unique environment. Event pop-ups are proving to be very popular and successful in not only other coastal locations but also in urban environments and it will be fantastic to see the Glamorgan Heritage Coast area benefitting from that same opportunity."

We've launched this pilot project under our Coastal Communities project & Rural Development programme in order to help businesses pilot activity which will be new to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast area. We now need enthusiastic and experienced businesses & organisations in both the Vale of Glamorgan and Surrounding areas to get in touch with us and express and interest if they think they have a suitable event pop-up idea by 30th May 2016. We hope to run the event pop-up's in late summer & autumn 2016.

Creative Rural Communities is a regeneration and economic development initiative led by the Vale of Glamorgan Council in partnership with various public, private and voluntary sector organisations. The project is funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2014-2020 by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

You can keep up with the Coastal Communities Funding project at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/CoastalCommunities.

Those expressing an interest in the pop-up events should meet the following criteria:

- Have an idea where they would like to operate their event within the Dunraven Bay site.
- Be experienced in this field or have a lead partner who is.
- Have an idea of a date and time of day they would like to operate their event between August 29 & October 31, 2016.
- Collaborate on events if appropriate.
- Have a viable event pop-up idea.
- Local applicants are encouraged but not necessarily given priority.
- Have a quality event offer.
- Be proposing a publicly accessible event.

To register your interest, or for more information please contact:

Natasha Davies on 01446 704767 natdavies@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk by 30th May 2016.

COMEDY SEQUEL PROVES A DISAPPOINTING EFFORT....

IT'S one of the golden rules that comedy sequels never reach the heights of the original.

Airplane soared while *Airplane 2* barely made it off the ground; the first slice of *American Pie* was warm and funny, the rest of it an example of diminishing returns, while the *Police Academy* films took a never-ending downhill turn after the first film.

Bad Neighbours 2 will aim to equal the success of the first one, and tells how Mac and Kelly (Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne), having got rid of the fraternity next door that was plaguing them in the first film, have sold their house and are looking to move.

However, when the sale is postponed for 30 days for checks to the house, their worst nightmare comes true when a sorority, led by Chloe Grace Moretz's Shelby, takes over the house determined to party.

Shelby and her friends have been encouraged by Teddy (Zach Efron), but when they decide they don't need him any more, Teddy switches sides and helps Mac and Kelly get rid of their neighbour problem...

Two of the biggest problems facing sequels are that they don't manage to be as funny as the first one and they retread the same ground for (lesser) comedic effect. It's a plight that doesn't avoid *Bad Neighbours 2* entirely, with both of these issues present and correct, along with a mangled and awkward feminist message, but it's a film that does earn a degree of leniency, based on the charm and comedic talents of those involved.

The most outstanding thing from *Bad Neighbours* was watching Zac Efron show a propensity for comedy that had been previously hidden away, and here he is delightfully enjoyable, the one-time fraternity leader realising life isn't one big party and is maybe passing him by.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

Efron certainly plays on his physical attributes but it plays into the joke, whether it's a dance routine designed to distract where the need for baby oil is satisfied by a barbecuing leg of meat, or the girls of the sorority accepting some of his more ludicrous statements because they enjoy looking at him. He shows that comedy is definitely his forte, and while the material may not be overly demanding, Efron's enjoyable turn is a highlight.

On sturdier ground are Seth Rogen and Rose Byrne, whose likeable chemistry from the first film rolls over here; now with their daughter grown a little (her choice of toys is most distracting) the pair are struggling with parental responsibilities and choices; when their lives are turned upside down by the sorority, it brings out the best in the two performers whose game turns add to the enjoyment level.

Chloe Grace Moretz isn't given the material, or the character, to match up to these and feels like a straight woman whose concerns are seemingly at odds with the tone of the story. For a film that deals with vomiting in peoples' faces, a new-born baby appearing at the worst possible time amidst other lowbrow comedic staples, the concept of sisterhood and living your life how you want to live it, rather than how you are expected to live it (in college specifically) feels like an awkward fit at the best of times, and sticks out like a sore thumb the rest of the time.

There's no dispute that it's a message that is empowering and important, but used the way it is, especially as there are several points where the stereotypes are reinforced rather than deconstructed, it feels empty and lacking, included seemingly more as a tip of the hat to a more gender-diverse cast than the first film.

It does manage to coast by on the charm of the leads, specifically Efron, and it's undemanding, reasonably enjoyable fare; but it doesn't match up to the first film. The case against comedy sequels claims another victim with *Bad Neighbours 2*.

VERDICT – *A disappointing, gender-swap retread of the first film, Bad Neighbours 2 manages to maintain some charm and goodwill thanks to the likes of Seth Rogen, Rose Byrne and MVP Zac Efron, but an awkward feminist message feels out of place and while the jokes are diverting enough, it doesn't ever truly hit the heights. Poor.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Bad Neighbours* (2014), *Dirty Grandpa* (2016).

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D930.

- **£2,000:** 879677.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £6,000, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 2 7 8 6 6 0 , 597397, 772040, 883328, 214833, 853318, 622864, 252450, 148242, 195994, 906474, 748181, 263328, 495214, 235577, 212170, 576396, 542337, 32963, 1080552.
- **£5:** 294896, 307365, 981075, 791888, 191232, 694523, 928999, 461463, 878307, 166060, 113799, 369001, 268142, 688641, 990544, 887451, 552508, 496220, 508229, 352336, 113296, 579596, 243176, 439504, 240350, 421252, 411742, 122959, 679451, 127144, 731923, 376139, 596824, 745028, 658814, 396799, 679298, 266994, 623187, 637509, 106742, 839096, 309204, 463807, 506376, 333995, 201391, 862542, 291607, 542840, 556675, 692835, 788137, 162353, 987423, 631246, 193409, 894, 733, 1150470.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Melding will not be Presiding Officer

DAVID MELDING, the Conservative AM, released a statement on Monday this week:

After much soul searching, I have come to realise that I am at my best as one of life's lieutenants.

For this reason I do not believe that I am the right person to lead the National Assembly through its next stage of development.

I am very grateful to family, friends and colleagues who have given me such generous support and provided me the space to make this decision.

Consequently, I will not seek nomination to become the Assembly's Presiding Officer.

I look forward to making a full contribution to the work of the 5th Assembly, and in particular, initiatives to strengthen Welsh democracy and the efficiency of public services.

Enjoy a touch of glamour with Sully WI

SULLY WI is hosting an open evening of old school glamour at the Old School, Sully next week.

Light entertainment will be provided by local chamber choir, the Spectrum Singers, with a nostalgic concert programme of *a cappella* tributes to songs from the silver screen.

Spectrum Singers have celebrated their 15th anniversary this year with a busy programme of choral festivals, weddings, concerts and an international tour to Berlin.

Spectrum Singers will be performing at the Old School, Sully on Wednesday, May 18, from 7.30pm. Tickets for 'Pure Hollywood' cost £3 on the door and include light refreshments.

Robert D Johnson
Cert FP
(Formerly of Park Funeral Directors, Barry)

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Family owned and run

Rural team reflects on how Euro cash was spent in the Vale

Martyn Hurst and Jo Homfray at Cowbridge Physic Garden.

CREATIVE Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale Council's rural regeneration team, marked Europe Day 2016 with a review of some of the Vale's most successful rural initiatives.

Since it was established in 2004, the CRC team has overseen £7.7m of investment across the Vale as part of the EU-funded Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2014.

Based in Cowbridge, the team has helped communities and businesses to develop, and has supported projects that benefit the local economy.

The team has focused on tourism projects, investment in community facilities, and farm diversification, and notable examples of each were the focus of the showcase.

One of the first projects started by CRC was Big Screen Cinema, which shows films at Cowbridge Town Hall.

In 2014, the town council received funding for a new state of the art cinema which is now also used by other groups and for events.

Steph Bonnar, cinema volunteer, said: "The cinema has become a wonderful monthly social event for the town with between 100 and 150 attending each screening. The funding has helped several community cinemas across the Vale to get going."

The Cowbridge Physic Garden was another project to receive funding in the early days and following this the Old Hall Grounds, championed by Cowbridge Charter Trust, has seen substantial EU investment.

In addition, the town walls, pond, façade restoration, storytelling circle, interpretation and the Iolo trail have also received funding.

The heritage of the area has since been brought to life by local groups such as historical societies at a number of locations, including St Quentin's Castle.

Martyn Hurst, a trustee of the garden, said: "When the dream of the Cowbridge Physic Garden began a little over 10 years ago, it was European funding that was the essential catalyst to get the project started.

"With the infrastructure under way, and with unstinting effort from skilled and enthusiastic volunteers, the garden has grown into the much-loved gem it is today."

Elsewhere in the area, investment has been seen in community facilities such as Twt Park, Downs View play area and Cowbridge allotments. Village halls in Aberthin, Penllyn, Llansannor, Llanblethian, along with Cowbridge town hall itself, have all received funding for improvements, as have facilities such as Holy Cross Church and the Old Hall to open the buildings up for greater community use.

Farm diversification funding formed a significant chunk of the overall CRC regeneration budget, and was an aspect that generated a lot of interest. One of the success stories in this area has been the Penllyn Estate's Cowbridge Cabins.

One of five farms to be supported with grants of up to £40,000 has recently won an award for best hostel in the UK.

Phil Chappell, team leader for economic development, said: "None of these projects would be possible without the dedication of our wonderful local residents and businesses.

"Many people only associate west Wales and the valleys with EU funding, but in excess of £1m of grants have been awarded in the Cowbridge ward alone.

"At CRC, we inspire communities and businesses to develop their own ideas and equip them with the skills to implement them rather than develop ideas on their behalf.

"These skills can then be transferred to others and this way of working ensures the sustainability of ideas that have been developed. I have seen a real shift in the regeneration culture in the rural Vale since I started back in 2004."

Creative Rural Communities is now looking ahead with an award of £1.82 million to run a new programme until 2020.

The team is also able to assist in accessing some of the £59 million of Rural Community Development Funding available to rural communities and businesses.

For more information drop them a line on create@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or call 01446 704828.

Exceptional community work in Barry gets national award

Staff from Jehu Project Services and Newydd Housing Association flying the flag for Wales with their Considerate Constructors Award at the ceremony in London. Nyron Wood (centre) is shown holding the award and flag.

JEHU Project Services, a construction company based in south Wales, has won a national award for community work during the build of a Newydd Housing Association development in Barry.

The 'Considerate Constructors National Awards' in London on April 21, honoured outstanding dedication to improving the image of the construction industry.

Jehu was recognised for exceptional dedication to providing opportunities for local people during the build on Thompson Street.

Paul Roberts, chief executive of Newydd, said: "Huge congratulations to Jehu on gaining this award. Their staff worked incredibly hard during the 18 months they were on site, striving to include people of all ages and backgrounds in their day to day work.

"They offered valuable opportunities and encouraged young people to seek a career in the industry. Engaging with the community is paramount to ensure a sustainable housing development, Jehu certainly went above and beyond in tailoring activities to the local area, it's more than just building a brand new home."

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

The bees are getting restless!

EVERYTHING is busy here at Fonmon.

The oilseed rape is very visible now and the bees are returning from foraging trips looking yellow and burdened with pollen and nectar. It is the bees that decide what they will visit and not the beekeeper.

The Queens have certainly stepped up their laying and, of course, as the population of the hive expands, so do the Varroa mites. I have trays under several colonies so that I can be aware of the mites and calculate their progress.

Swarming and varroa are the main problems that new beekeepers have to get to grips with. Calls to attend to swarms have already come in.

Giving the colony room, i.e. adding boxes does help but swarming is something that is a part of the bees' life cycle, that's how they keep the species going, so sooner or later, despite the beekeeper's best endeavours, his/her bees will swarm. You can't always be the winner.

Many of our new beekeepers will start off with a swarm and some will purchase bees from breeders who put together a starter kit of several thousand bees, plus a laying Queen, all housed in a half-sized hive on frames.

Eventually, as the Queen lays more eggs the colony will have to be put into a full-size hive and bingo, you are a beekeeper. The cost of one of these nucleus hives will be around £160 but the cost of a swarm will be £50 or so.

The difference in cost here is because the local society beekeeper is a hobby beekeeper and does not make a living from any beekeeping activity. There is, of course, the desire to help the newcomer get under way.

A plentiful supply of forage is on offer here at Fonmon but not much in the way of pollinating insects can be observed; in fact, only last week at around 4pm, I could see a tractor busily spraying a field of oilseed rape in full bloom in the Penmark area! Was it liquid fertiliser? Or was it insecticide?

Pollinators are on the wing at this time of day, but not for long if the spray being applied was the latter. It has been said that farmland today is a desert as far as wildlife is concerned and it is not too difficult to understand why.

In the course of my reading, I have come across the statement that said we humans are the only species with the ability to change the planet and we are certainly doing that.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Rhoose History Society hosts an exhibition of local images

THE Rhoose & District History society is to hold its second annual photographic exhibition of people and events, with more than 400 photographs of Rhoose 'past and present'.

Some go back over 100 years of buildings, properties, some now long gone.

The exhibition will be showing old ordnance survey maps of the area and adjacent villages.

You will also be able to view, on a large screen, a number of DVDs on a continuous loop of people, places and industry, while sitting in comfort and drinking a cup of tea or coffee as refreshments are provided.

So come along and possibly see yourselves in some of these photos or maybe your relations, friends or even some of your old ancestors.

Besides Rhoose and Fontygary, there are also photos of the surrounding villages.

You may also be able to assist us in identifying some of the people or places for our archives, and please bring along any old photographs you may have of interest of the area, which we will copy on the same day for future exhibition and possibly in a book format at some later date. Make a note in your diaries and iPads now!

The exhibition is on Saturday, May 21 at the Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose from 10.30am-4.30pm.

Admission £1 and refreshments are free.

Jeff James

LEGAL ADVICE

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and Vale is holding a free legal advice session on Tuesday, May 17, from 10am to 12noon at Age Connects Senior Health Shop 38 Holton Road Barry.

If you are over 50 and worried about a legal matter other than criminal law, just come along and have a chat to a local legal team based in Barry.

No appointment is needed – come along and have a chat. Please contact 01446 732385 for further information.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Craft fair at Barry Island

BARRY At War Group is holding its next craft fair at Barry Island Station on Sunday, June 12 – the day when the Red Arrows are due to return to Barry Island.

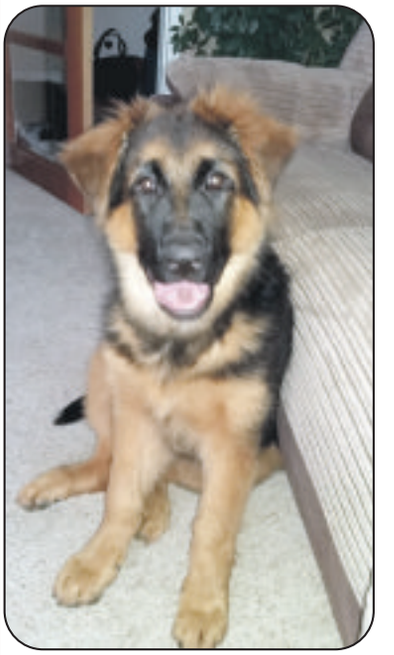
A spokesman said: "Recently, some interesting items have been donated for the wartime kitchen at the museum. Also, if readers have personal stories from the 1940s and would like to share them, we could add them to our collection on our website.

"We continuing to plan for Wartime Weekend on September 3-4 and are seeking sponsors, supporters and participants."

AM's surgery

JANE HUTT AM will be holding a constituency surgery on Friday, May 13, 4pm-6pm at the Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7TZ. No appointment necessary.

OZZY BACKS PET MONTH



Each year The GEM supports National Pet Month – which has just concluded. The aim is to encourage responsible pet ownership which includes having a 'chip' put in your dog – now a legal requirment. GEM reader Eileen sent in this image of the new 'apple of her eye' five month old Ozzy a German Shepherd dog.

KNIGHTS

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Unit 1a Palmersvale Business Park £13,000 PA
First floor modern office accommodation. Fully carpeted with office partitions and blinds. Approx 2,000 square feet. Alarmed. CCTV. Five allocated car parking spaces to rear. Flexible terms.

1-3 St Marys Avenue- £25,000 PA
A large and spacious two/three storey property. High standard throughout. Offered for lease as a whole with a possibility to purchase. Floor area is approximately 1,950 square feet. Viewing a must.

120 Holton Road- £18,000 PA
A three storey premises with basement. Property comprising; Display area, office space, kitchen, WC, walk in safe, storage area. Parking to rear (formerly a building society)

54 Holton Road- £8,000 PA
An opportunity to lease a suite of offices comprising; Five offices, reception areas, two separate w/c's, kitchen area, gas central heating. Flexible terms.

15 High Street- £650 PCM
Ground floor office accommodation. Three offices. W/c and staff facilities. Currently has A2 use. Flexible terms.

42/44/46/48 Holton Road - Negotiable
Extensive suite of offices of good standard comprising; Shared kitchen/w.c facilities, Separate entrance. Reception area. Seven offices. Plans available for inspection at Knights Offices. Please phone for further information.

145 Holton Road- £15,000 PA
Prime position within the pedestrianised section of Holton Road/ top part of Thomson street. The property comprises a well configured ground floor shop with first floor storage and rear servicing.

48c Holton Road- £5,000 PA
An opportunity to acquire a small unit comprising; Retail area, counter with top, strip lights and fitted carpet. Door into rear wash room and separate w/c. Electric security roller shutter.

85 High Street (above giggles) £350PCM
First and second floor suite of offices comprising: Three offices. Two w/c's. Kitchen. Further suite of three offices. Landlord prepared to offer flexible terms or 2-3 months rent free.

90 South Road (Sully Pub)- £26,000 PA
An Opportunity to lease a free house/club/restaurant providing 70 covers (busy Sunday lunches) with potential to grow and improve the business.

18 High street (Post Office)- £165,000
Opportunity to purchase a three storey premises with three bedrooms. Access to flat from the main entrance of shop. The property has formerly been the only post office for the West End of Barry for many years.

41 Vere Street (Fish Bar)- £175,000
An opportunity to acquire a corner property with A3 use. The property has living accommodation above with a further kitchen. Property has been maintained to a high standard. Automatic roller shutters. Offers invited.

Rear of 1 Newland Street
Guide Price in Excess of £75,000
Auction held at Park Inn Hotel, CF23 9XF on the 27th May 2016. Warehouse extending to approximately 2,650 SQ FT.

Angela Fulgoni
Commercial Manager
Dealing with the commercial and residential stock for over 30 years, Angela has an abundance of patience and has built up an excellent rapport within the community catering to the needs of all.

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- Sought after location

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- No chain

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- Converted Chapel
- 5 bedrooms
- Large gardens
- Rural settings

£710,000

CLOS FFAWYDDEN, YSTRADOWEN

- 4 double bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Detached double garage
- Large rear garden

£400,000

PENYLAN COURT, ST BRIDES MAJOR

- Spacious detached property
- 4 bedrooms
- Detached garage
- Rear garden with open views

£400,000

GELLI DDU FARM, MOUNTAIN ASH

NEW

- Approximately 336 acres
- Potential for agricultural and equestrian use
- Located close to small village of Cwmpennar

£650,000

BADGERS BROOK CLOSE, YSTRADOWEN

- 3 bed semi detached property
- Recently redecorated/ carpeted
- Sought after village
- No chain

£235,000

OAKWOOD BUNGALOW, LLANMAES

- Large detached residence
- 4 bedrooms
- Gardens and pasture land extending to approximately 5.5 acres

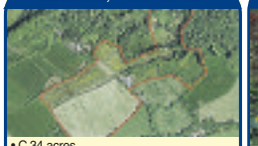
£585,000

23 ACRES AT GARTH

- Extending to approximately 23 acres
- Located on the outskirts of Garth
- Small areas of amenity woodland

£50,000

LLANGAIN, CARMARTHEN



- C.34 acres
- Useful farm buildings
- Equestrian potential
- Private location

£250,000

LYNDALE, LLANBLETHIAN

- Large detached house
- 4 bedrooms
- Double garage with workshop
- Spacious landscaped gardens

£575,000

MAES SLOWES LEYES, RHOOSE

- Spacious detached property
- 4 bedrooms
- 2 reception rooms
- Gardens and Garage

£240,000

COWBRIDGE ROAD, TALYGARN

- 115.5 acres in total
- Direct road access
- Ring fenced
- Convenient location

£775,000

LAND AT ARGOED AVENUE

- Development site extending to c.0.6 acres
- Walking distance to local amenities
- Good road access to prominent location

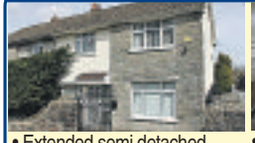
£170,000

EWENNY ROAD, BRIDGEND

- Semi-detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- Extended and improved
- Well regarded location

£215,000

THE MEADOWS, CORNTOWN



- Extended semi detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- Cul de sac position
- Off road parking

£750pcm

GROESWEN ROAD, CAERPHILLY

- Development potential
- Planning for three cottages
- Sought after location
- Rarely available

£300,000

TYLCHA FACH TERRACE, COED ELY

- An allotment
- Located near semi detached properties
- Approximately 0.1 acre

£10,000

GARDEN FLAT, 42 EASTGATE, COWBRIDGE

- Garden flat
- 1 bedroom
- Refurbished
- Town centre location

£595 pcm

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Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal door
- Parking

Rent £123.22 per week including service charges

CRAWSHAY DRIVE, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 234273
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

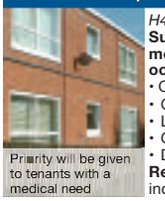
Rent £105.91 per week inc. water and alarm charges

DOBBINS ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 1072793
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £99.72 per week

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY



Priority will be given to tenants with a medical need

H4U Reference 1098733
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £84.04 per week including service charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 109167
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £88.11 per week including service charges

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 100393
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Second floor (with lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal door
- Parking

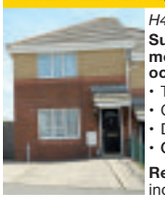
Rent £121.07 per week including service charges

FAIROAKS, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 231130
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60– no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (with lift)
- Level access shower
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm/warden

Rent £115.15 per week inc. water and warden charges

GATEHOLM CLOSE, BARRY



H4U Reference 1011241
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens/parking

Rent £97.38 per week including service charges

GRAYBURN HOUSE, BARRY

Subject to local lettings policy and planning restrictions – no childr

H4U Reference 128606
Suitable for applicants over 40 meeting the maximum occupancy requirement – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor (with lift)
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £101.70 per week including service charges

HAYES ROAD, SULLY

H4U Reference 128591
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £88.77 per week

HEWELL STREET, PENARTH

H4U Reference 239883
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £110.00 per week including water charges

PLASSEY HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 241288
Suitable for a single person over 40– no pets
- Studio apartment
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens

Rent £91.75 per week inc. water and communal chgs

REDLANDS HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243743
Suitable for a single person over 60– no pets
- Studio apartment
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Communal gardens
- Warden

Rent £120.64 per week inc. water and communal chgs

VINCENT CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 227062
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £90.20 per week including water charges

LOW COST HOME OWNERSHIP

MAES DYFAN, BARRY

AspireOwn

United Welsh Housing Association is pleased to offer this great opportunity for first time buyers to purchase a brand new home at a discounted rate. Properties are located at Maes Dyfan, Barry within easy reach of all major facilities.

The Alnwick, two bedroomed houses offer modern open plan kitchen/dining room with access to garden.

- Plots 4 & 5 are offered for sale at **£92,400** (70% of the market value of £132,000.)
- Plots 3 & 6 are offered for sale at **£95,200** (70% of the market value of £136,000.)

LOW COST HOME OWNERSHIP

ST LYTHANS PARK, CULVERHOUSE CROSS

AspireOwn

United Welsh Housing Association is pleased to offer this great opportunity for first time buyers to purchase a brand new home at a discounted rate.

- Four, two-bedroom houses are located on the prestigious St Lythans Park development at Culverhouse Cross. Preference is given for a local connection.
- Properties are offered for sale at **£119,000** (70% of the market value of £165,000.)

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Are you a council tenant who has been affected by the bedroom tax?

Would you like to discuss the options available to you?
If so, call our Money Advice Line on **01446 709312** for constructive, impartial advice.
This number is not a bidding line for properties in this advert.

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
Newydd is a charitable housing association.

Vale of Glamorgan Bro Morgannwg | Hafod | newydd | United Welsh | Wales & West Housing

TWO WINS FOR TYNEWYDD FC

GOING into the game looking to do the league double over Barry Belgrade, Tynewydd FC started the game on the front foot, creating some good goalscoring opportunities from a series of corners.

But it was from a well-worked passing move midway through the first half that the ball was whipped into the top corner to give Tynewydd the lead and it remained 1-0 to half-time.

Early into the second half Tynewydd doubled their lead after some high pressure on the Belgrade back line resulted in a misplaced pass finding Julian Brana on the edge of the box, whose half volley found the bottom corner.

Tynewydd killed the game off on the 65th minute when a long diagonal freekick from Nick Haincock found Andrew Colburn, who rose highest at the back post and powered his header in to the net.

At 3-0 Tynewydd saw the remainder of the game out, with their solid back five once again restricting Belgrade to only a handful of long shots.

TYNEWYDD 8
BARRY VILLA 0

Tynewydd made easy work against rock bottom Barry Villa in a game that was totally overshadowed by worrying scenes after one of the young Villa players went off the field suffering with serious breathing difficulties.

Tynewydd coach Paul Union kept the player comfortable until the paramedics arrived on the scene.

Reports are good that Josh is recovering well and all of Tynewydd FC wish him all the best.

Squad: J.Shepherd, P.Pydannah, N.Haincock, J.Clissett (c), D.Miller, A.Colburn, L.Union, G.Richards, Ll.Union, R.Smith, J.Brana, G.Osborne, G.Union, C.Coleman, G.Pycroft, L.Peterson, P.Union.

JC

Double duty for Central

LAST week saw Barry Central club members settling into the demands of playing two matches a week.

On Wednesday evening Sully were the opponents at Gladstone Gardens. The Sully team turned out to be very strong, being able to call on players that had the experience of playing in higher standards of bowls.

However, the Central players stuck to the task and put up a strong resistance. Eventually, however, the match was lost.

Match result: K. Tanner 8-26; D. Goddard 20-22; T. Kaged 13-19; T. Goddard 12-11. Central 53, Sully 78.

Saturday brought Llantwit Major A to the club in the South Vale League match.

After a good start by both teams, the heavens opened, causing a delay in proceedings.

An early tea was taken, after which the Central players managed to take command of the game. It must be noted that the spirit of the game was of the highest order.

It is very pleasing that the match result favoured the Central, and it is hoped that this augers well for the forthcoming season in the Cardiff & Municipal Bowls League.

Match result: K. Tanner 16-15; D. Goddard 25-7; T. Kaged 13-19; T. Goddard 18-12. Barry Central 71, Llantwit Major A 51.

BC

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Reds' unbeaten run puts them in title hunt

A day later than usual, due to the bank holiday, Cowbridge Town Reds played their final home league game of the season when they entertained FC Barry last Tuesday evening.

This was the first time the Reds had played FC Barry this season, so the opposition were somewhat of an unknown quantity.

The Reds were not prepared to let the visitors settle into the game and came flying out of the blocks and took an early lead after Ruben Davies was brought down in the penalty area and the resulting penalty kick was calmly dispatched by Craig Tapsfield.

A second goal followed shortly after from a fine run and finish by Harry Treharne, but the game then became a bit of an arm wrestle with both teams trying to exert their authority but with few clear chances being created.

However, as half-time approached, a quality finish by Craig opened up a 3-0 lead for the Reds at the break.

The second half followed a similar pattern to the first with the Reds extending their lead early on from a powerful drive by Akka Guwy, and a Ben Cooke header from a corner made it 5-0 before the game descended into a physical affair.

To their credit the Reds withstood this and managed to score the final goal of the game through Craig, who claimed his hat-trick to make the score 6-0 to the Reds.

On Saturday morning, in showery weather, the Reds faced title rivals Park Lions in their penultimate league match of the season at The Butts in Barry.

With their opponents being the only team to take points off the Reds this season, there was much at stake for both sides.

The Reds kicked off, but it was Park Lions who attacked first with an early shot at the Reds goal which was well saved by goalkeeper Aron Kempson.

A series of Cowbridge attacks saw Ruben Davies score the first goal of the day from a fine passing move between Harry Treharne and Steffan Evans.

In response, Park Lions mounted a number of attacks but were kept at bay by the Reds defence, led by captain Rhys Hardman and with Aron in goal.

Midway through the first half Ruben managed to find the net for a second time but was denied by a controversial late call for offside.

The remainder of the first half was played at a very high tempo with both teams trying to manufacture an opening but few clear-cut chances being created.

The second half saw Park Lions come into the game more and start to gain the upper hand in terms of possession and territory, but with the Reds creating the better chances on the break which were narrowly missed.

The high tempo and intensity of the game was beginning to take its toll on both sides with a lot of weary legs on the pitch, but the Reds defence dug deep and held strong before the Reds almost managed to extent their lead, hitting the bar from an Akka Guwy corner.

With five minutes remaining, following a scramble in the Reds penalty area, Park Lions eventually managed to equalise from a deflected shot past Aron who had had a fine game in goal.

With time running out Park Lions pressed forward in the hope of claiming a winner but the entire Reds team defended manfully and held strong until the final whistle blew with the score at 1-1.

It had been a tough game for both sides and the score was a fair representation of the morning's proceedings between two closely-matched teams.

The result also means that the Reds take on FC Barry in their final league game of the season, a win or draw enough to see them top the table and be crowned Vale of Glamorgan under-12 league champions.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Collingridge, Ben Cooke, Ruben Davies, Steffan Evans, Akka Guwy, Rhys Hardman, Will Harris, Aaron Holcombe, Aron Kempson, Toby Mallett, Tom McCarthy, Benji Mulcahy, Ifor Rees, Jac Roberts, Craig Tapsfield, Edward Thomas, Harry Treharne.

SE

Expressions of interest

united welsh

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

EDEN BROOK, YSTRADOWEN

United Welsh Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the development of eleven properties in Eden Brook, Ystradowen.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to the area.

The local lettings policy applies.

- One, three-bedroom, five-person house
  W/c downstairs – bath with overhead shower, no level access shower facilities
  Rent £101.26
- Four, two-bedroom, four-person houses
  W/c downstairs – bath with overhead shower, no level access shower facilities
  Rent £99.61
- Six, one-bedroom, two-person flats
  Three ground floor, three first floor
  Bath with overhead shower, no level access shower facilities
  Rent £78.64

There will also be a service charge attached to the properties, which is yet to be confirmed.

ST LYTHANS PARK, CULVERHOUSE CROSS

United Welsh Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the development of six properties in St Lythans Park, Culverhouse Cross.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to the area.

The local lettings policy applies.

- Six, one–bedroom flats
  Rent £78.64

There will also be a service charge attached to the properties, which is yet to be confirmed.

OGMORE BY SEA, OGMORE

United Welsh Housing Association together with the Vale of Glamorgan Council announce the development of eight properties in Ogmore.

Expressions of interest are invited from Homes4U members with a local connection to the area.

The local lettings policy applies.

- Two, two-bedroom, four-person houses
  W/c and walk-in shower downstairs – bathroom facilities upstairs
  Rent £99.61
- Six, one-bedroom, two-person flats
  Three ground floor, three first floor
  Bath with overhead shower, no level access shower facilities
  Rent £78.64

There will also be a service charge attached to the properties, which is yet to be confirmed.

VALE of GLAMORGAN BRO MORGANNWG

To apply, call Contact One Vale on 01446 700111

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Bluebell woodland in Coed Mawr delights ramblers...

THE weather turned up trumps for Rachel's recent bank holiday walk for Penarth and District Ramblers and, meeting at the Rhiwderin Inn, the 12 assembled walkers and Ramakin were advised this was a celebration of two birthdays, the first being Rachel's while the second remained a secret to be revealed later.

Intrigued, and setting off from Rhiwderin, a climb led towards Fox Hill and a glorious view of Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Henllys on the opposite side of the Ebbw Valley, before tramping through a bluebell carpeted woodland floor in Coed Mawr.

In a field at Upper Ochrwyth the gate was firmly locked, so everyone had to squeeze through the fence much to the amusement of the two resident horses.

Entering steep sloping fields and ducking under an electric fence, morning coffee followed before exiting onto the road at Castle Farm where nine donkeys were grazing quietly in a field.

A steep climb led to the disused Ochrwyth or Pontymister quarry and, passing the remnants of old quarry buildings, the path led uphill to Mynydd Machen Common, then through a boggy area onto a man-made forestry path through felled trees.

Another steep climb through woodland led into open meadows where the sky to the northwest turned black and continuing to climb by field and road onto Mynydd Machen, a brief but blustery downpour of hailstones forced the donning of waterproofs, prior to the sun making its return.

Reaching the trig point on Mynydd Machen at a height of 362m, the secret became clear as this year heralds the 80th anniversary of the Triangulation Point.

In 1935, the Ordnance Survey decided to rewrite maps and appointed Brigadier Martin Hotine to complete the mammoth task, and he designed the trig point to be level bases for surveyor's theodolites and then constructed 6,500 of them across Britain.

Although the 110 Global Navigation Satellite System does the same job in only seconds, the trig point still holds a special place in walkers' hearts, both as a navigational aid and a place from which to enjoy outstanding views.

After lunch overlooking the Bristol Channel and mouth of the Severn Estaury, a steep descent led them on by lane and field to view the ruins of Castell Meredydd, and onward through fields containing horses and sheep to newly created woodland steps in Graig Wyllt, where the woodland was painted completely purple with the breathtaking sight of native bluebells.

More meadows led downhill to the road and back to the Rhiwderin Inn for a refreshing drink as a thank you for the use of their car park.

After reporting problems on this route to Newport City Council some five weeks previously, Rachel wishes to send her thanks to them for their swift response in the installation of two new stiles along with the new woodland steps, which were greatly appreciated by the whole group.

On May 14, the Merthyr Valley Group is hosting the area walks this year so please visit our website for details of all three walks.

On May 15, meet at 9.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a seven-mile moderate walk at Welsh St Donats; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On May 18, meet at 8am at Cogan for a 14-mile moderate/hard mid-week walk taking in Bredon Hill in Worcestershire; contact William on 07528 701 952.

On May 19, the first of the evening walks will leave Cogan Railway Station at 7pm for a 3.5-mile easy walk taking in Penarth Cliffs and Cosmeston; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Churches of Barry invite

ON Pentecost Day (Sunday, May 15) all are welcome to come along to the Churches of Barry Pentecost Praise Service at 3.30pm on Barry Island promenade (near Bay 5 cafe).

The service will have songs, puppets, children's Pentecost crafts, prayers and birthday cakes for 'The Birthday of the Church'.

Contact your local church, or speak to Rev Peter Taylor (on behalf of The Churches of Barry) on 01446 406262.

174 Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

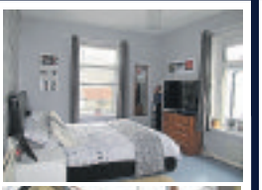
GROVE ESTATES

SSTC

BARRY ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted semi-detached property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Gardens to front and rear
- Two reception rooms
- Offered freehold with vacant possession.

£140,000

NEW

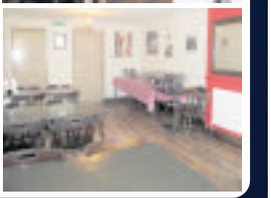


ST MAYS AVENUE, BARRY
- Three double bedroom Victorian bay fronted property in the town centre
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Garden to front and rear
- Offered freehold with no chain.

£115,000

"DOWNTOWN" AMERICAN CAFE & RESTAURANT, BARRY
- 50 seater licensed cafe & restaurant turnkey business for sale
- In a central location within the pedestrianised area of Holton Road
- Good sized premises set over two floors
- A3 usage
- Current rent £500 pcm with no rates payable

£6,000



SOLD

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- 2 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to the town centre
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Close to transport links in & out of Barry
- Low maintenance garden to the rear
- Sold freehold with no onward

£99,950

SSTC

TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY
- Two bedroom mid terrace property
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Conservatory
- Loft room
- Offered freehold

£99,950

LLEWELLYN STREET, BARRY
- Three bedroom mid terrace property in a popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Within walking distance to the town centre
- Situated close to schools and transport links in & out of Barry
- Freehold

£94,950

RENTALS

Davies Street, Barry
2 bed terrace property, GCH, DG, unfurnished £550pcm

Arthur Street, Barry
2 bed end link property, GCH, DG. Unfurnished £575pcm

Enfield Drive, Barry
2 bed mid link property, GCH, DG. Unfurnished £575pcm

Amherst Crescent, Barry
1 bed ground floor garden flat, GCH, DG. Part Furnished £450pcm

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NEW

Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
Superb Potential.
No Forward Chain.
£179,950

NEW PRICE

Ash Lane, St Athan
3 Bedrooms.
Rarely Available.
Potential to Extend.
£149,950 D64

NEW PRICE

St Davids Crescent, St Athan
2 Bedrooms.
Southerly Rear.
No Chain. Parking.
£114,950 C70

Chris Davies

Rhoose 01446 711900
Llantwit Major 01446 792020
Barry 01446 700007
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

Partridge Road, St Athan
2 Beds. Loft Room.
GCH Combi.
Countryside Views.
£109,950 E45

Tyle House Close, Llanmaes
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Driveway. Garage.
Sought After Village.
£349,950 C69

Ty Draw Road, Llandow, Cowbridge
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
Garage. Driveway.
Superb Gardens.
£345,000

Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
3 Beds. Garage.
UPVC. GCH Combi.
Well Presented.
£149,995 D58

Channel View, Marcross
3 Beds. Conservatory.
Driveway for 4 Cars.
Stunning Views.
£265,000 D64

Daniel Hopkin Close, Llantwit Major
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Garage. Extended.
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£259,950

Tyle House Close, Llanmaes
3 Bedrooms.
En-Suite. No Chain.
Impressive Driveway.
£279,950 E50

Windmill Close, Wick
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
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Double Garage.
£409,950 D62

Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major
4 Beds. 2 Recps.
Driveway. Garage.
Rare Opportunity.
£479,950 F25

Eagle Road, St Athan
3 Bedrooms.
Multi Fuel Burner.
Superb Presentation.
£149,950 D65

Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major
3 Beds. 2 Recps. GCH Combi. Extended.
Driveway. No Chain.
£159,950 C73

Glyndwr Avenue, St Athan
3 Beds. 2 Recps.
Driveway for 3 Cars.
Potential to extend.
£139,950 E50

Glebeland Place, St Athan
3 Beds. 3 Recps.
Extended. Garage.
100' Garden.
£174,950 E51

Stag Lane, Llantwit Major
2 Bedrooms.
West End Location.
Off Road Parking.
£159,950 F23

West End Terrace, Llantwit Major
2 Beds. Gardens.
2015 GCH Combi.
West End Location.
£199,950 C69

Wine Street, Llantwit Major
3 Double Beds.
2 Impressive Recps.
No Forward Chain.
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Llantwit Road, St Athan
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Requires Work.
£229,950 D55

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Waterfront Property
B85. Band C
£495 PCM

Evans Street, Barry
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£525 PCM

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Parking
C74. Band C
£575 PCM

Broadway, Cowbridge
Two Bedrooms, Conservatory
Shower Room
C69, Band E
£695 PCM

Melyn Y Gors, Barry
Stunning Two Double
Bedroom Property
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Modern Bathroom
Parking for Two Cars. D66.
BAND C
£725 PCM

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....CALL A PROFESSIONAL FROM OUR A-Z LIST!

Advertisers please note : deadline for Classified Section is 5pm Monday (to appear in the following week's edition). Telephone 01446 774484. email: vanessa.james@tindlenews.co.uk

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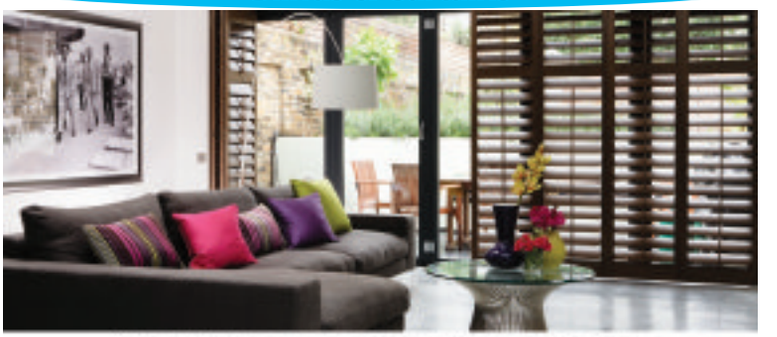

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Birthdays

Acknowledgements

HATHERALL
Herbert

Ann and family would like thank everyone who attended the funeral service, also for the many cards and kindness shown by neighbours and friends.

Thanks to the doctors and nurses of the Western Vale Family Practice and very big thanks to Thomas Bros Funeral Directors for their kindness and care at this sad time.

ELLIOTT
Leslie Owen

Michael and Ann wish to the thank all those who attended Les' funeral, sent cards and shared condolences, love and kindness.

Also, for the generous donations to Tŷ Hafan Childrens Hospice.

Family Notices

ZERASCHI
Luisa

Peacefully on May 2 at Llandough Hospital, Luisa, beloved wife of the late Francesco, greatly loved mother of Giovanni, Celestino, Marco, Franca and the late Paola.
She shall be dearly missed by her family and friends.

Luisa will be received into St Helens RC Church, Barry on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm. Requiem Mass to take place on Monday, May 16 at 11.15am, followed by family only committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service for the benefit of Parkinsons UK via the Funeral Director Lyndsay Ellis.

CASE
Shirley Irene

Peacefully, on May 8 at Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Shirley, beloved wife of the late Len, mother of Nigel and Andrew, adored grandmother, sister, sister-in-law and auntie.

Funeral service to be held at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, May 17, at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to Macmillan Cancer Support.

KETTLE
George Brian

On April 30 at Morriston Hospital after a long illness, George of Boverton, Llantwit Major. Beloved husband of Christine, dearly loved father of Jackie and Peter, much loved grandfather of Emily, Daniel, Harry, Tabitha, Alistair and Agatha.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral, Friday, May 20, service 12 noon at Bethesda'r Fro Chapel, Eglwys Brewis Road, Boverton, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 1pm.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

ANDERSON
Iris

Peacefully passed away on Thursday, May 5 at College Fields Care Home, Barry, Iris, aged 92 years. Beloved wife of the late Keith, devoted mum to Ailsa and Shelagh. Cherished nan to her six grandchildren, proud granny to her nine great grandchildren.
Iris will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Thursday, May 19 at 1.45pm, followed by a committal service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

MALPAS
Janet
(aged 102)

Who died peacefully on May 8 at Island View Residential Home, Barry Island. Beloved wife of late husband Norman, loving mother of Barrie, daughter-in-law Roslyn and much loved nana of Scott, Amy, Aaron and great grandson Ralphy.

Funeral to be held at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Monday, May 16 at 3pm. Family Flowers only - any donations in lieu to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice for Wales.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis. Further enquiries contact 01446 407962.

DEERE
Emily Elizabeth "Betty"

Peacefully at Ysbyty Cwm Rhondda Hospital on Saturday, April 30, aged 91 years. Betty, formerly of Chorleywood Close, Brackla, Bridgend. Dearly loved and sorely missed by her sons Malcolm, Howard and Miles, daughter-in-law Bridget, Carol and Lisa, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Funeral service to be held at 2.15pm on Thursday May 12 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu to the British Heart Foundation. Enquiries to Pontyclun Funeral Services, 01443 224358.

LEONARD
Maureen (Mo) née Frost

Passed away peacefully on May 3 at Llandough Hospital after a short illness. Wife of the late Ronald John Leonard, beloved mother and mother-in-law to Nicola and David. Dearly loved nan of Nathaniel, Jonathan, Alexander, Bethan and Stephanie and great nan to Rosie and Alfie.

Resting at Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, until her service at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, on Friday, May 20 at 10am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Flowers welcome.

REES
Nesta Maud

Suddenly, but peacefully, on May 1 at The UHW Cardiff, Nesta Maud, aged 94 years, of Camrose Court, Barry. Beloved wife of the late Thomas John Parry. Dearly loved mother of Christine, Caroline and the late Rosemary. Mother-in-law of Malcolm and Cyril (Nip) and the late Don. Cherished grandmother and great grandmother.
Nesta will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Wednesday, May 18. Service in the chapel at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

DAVIES
Shirley Rees

Peacefully on May 7, Shirley of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Amanda and Julian and mother-in-law to Joanne. She was a loving grandmother to Ashley, Jacob, Chloe and Calum and great grandmother to Blane and Mia, and will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Thursday, 19 May in Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am.

Family flowers only but donations may be made to the Dogs Trust c/o the Funeral Home (cheques only).

LEWIS
Wayne

Suddenly on May 3 in Cardiff, Wayne of St. Clement, Jersey and formerly of Ty Gwyn Drive, Bridgend. Dearly loved partner of Betty, much loved father of Justin and Hannah and a continued friend to their mother Marthe.
Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Funeral Wednesday, May 18, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. Family flowers only, donations in lieu may be made to the Alzheimer's Society or the Wales Air Ambulance c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, Graigwen, 12 Pentwyn Road, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 6SB. Tel: 01656 860545.

LALANDE
Andrew James

On Saturday, May 30, suddenly at home, Andrew James, husband to Andrea, father to David, brother to Diane and Phil.

Funeral May 19 at 11am in The Old Village Church, Cadoxton, then to Barry Crematorium. No flowers, donations in lieu of flowers to Ty Hafan. Request colourful attire if possible.

HIGGINS
William Francis (Billy)

Peacefully on May 9 at Barry Community Hospital. Billy, devoted husband of Bernadette, much loved and adored dad, grandad and great grandad.
Billy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until being received into St Helens RC Church, Barry on Thursday, May 19 at 4pm. Requiem Mass to take place on Friday, May 20 at 10.15am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only; donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Billy's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, in aid of Dementia UK.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis - 01446 407962.

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Quality of photos was 'incredible'

BARRY Camera Club's month started on April 1 with a presentation of the Royal Photographic Society's Salon event, introduced and hosted by our chairman.

The work shown was the cream of the entries from professional and amateur photographers world-wide and the quality was incredible.

All genres of the art were well represented and whilst some of the members were not too keen on some of the more avant-garde images on display, there could be no doubt about the quality of the photography. We really did see some impressive work which has given us all something to aspire to!

Friday, April 8 was our annual David Hunt Trophy evening. This trophy is dedicated to our late member

David Hunt, a doyen of Barry Camera Club who served the club over many years in all offices and capacities. David was particularly interested in natural history and the competition subject is natural history, split into two sections, one for prints (both monochrome and colour) and the other for projected images, with one image selected as overall trophy winner.

Our judge this year was Alec Stewart, who is himself a natural history enthusiast and despite awarding one or two unusually low marks, he expressed his pleasure at both the quantity and quality of the entries, and was pleased that the subject is so well supported by the members at the club.

After giving a thorough discussion to every image presented, Alec gave the following awards:

Prints: First place and 19 points went to Roy Carr for his picture entitled 'Milky Wood'. This shot narrowly beat Brian Trego's 'Sensing Danger' into second place with 18 points and Brian Trego again into third place with 'Stag Protecting The Herd' which was awarded 17 points.

Projected Image: This was a very close fought contest but Philippa Evans' 'Hummingbird Feeding' was judged the pick of the bunch with 20 points and was also awarded the David Hunt Trophy as being the best image of the evening.

Last year's winner Ken Mayled was awarded second place and 19 points for 'Diamond Dove' and to cap a very successful evening Philippa Evans gained third place and 18 points for 'Migrant Hawker'. Our thanks go to Alec for a very informative and entertaining presentation.

Friday, April 15 was a members' evening where members showed both printed and projected panoramas of views across local scenes, as well as more exotic destinations. A panorama is simply several pictures taken across a view from a single viewpoint then joined together to present a long, wide image. The process has been made much easier since the advent of computer packages such as Photoshop, and the fact that it is easier to project such images than print them resulted in the vast majority being projected images.

Members introduced their own images and explained the thought processes and the techniques behind each shot. This was a very interesting evening and is likely to become an annual event.

The following week saw a visit from Tony Rackham FRPS, supported by his wife Betty, with a presentation entitled 'Wildlife In Our Garden'. The evening consisted of a display of first class images of plant life and wildlife big and small.

Unusually, a lot of time was devoted to explanations of the technical aspects of the images, such as shutter speed, lens apertures used and the importance of support for the camera.

Once again the month concluded with our monthly competition night. This month the judge was Keith Sharple, who managed to arrive on time despite horrendous traffic problems. Keith gave a detailed and very thorough critique to every shot and in complete contradiction to other judges on the circuit, made the point that the way the prints were mounted made no difference at all to him – he was only interested in the image.

Other judges however, tend to place great importance on the mount as being part of the entire image. He was impressed with the strength of the images he had been given and awarded marks and prizes as follows:

Monochrome Print: Kevin awarded 20 points and first place to Glenn Porter for his action shot 'A Shot At The Steelers Goal', second place and 19 points to Glenn Porter again for 'Old Tilley Lamp' and 18 points and third place to John Dudley for 'Rocky'. Highly commended were 'Spanner Man' by John Dudley and 'Mist In The Woods' by Roy Carr which all received 17 points.

Colour Print: 20 points and first place was granted to Glenn Porter for 'The Pier', 19 points and second place to Barbra Archdale-Smith for 'Structural Shapes' and third place with 18 points went to Roy Carr for 'Saltwick Down'. Highly commended prints gaining 18 points each were 'Styling It' by Glenn Porter and 'Dawn On Whitby Pier' by Roy Carr.

The Projected Image section was, as always, the best supported section and Keith made the following awards: Gareth Williams gained an outright first prize scoring 20 points for his 'Southerndown Sunset', Philippa Evans was awarded 19 points and second place for 'Common Blue Damselfly', and Gareth Williams gained third place with 'The Abandoned Game', scoring 18 points.

Highly commended images, each scoring 17 points were 'Proud' by Tom Conibear, 'Don't Cry' by Malcolm Downes and 'Male Wren Singing' by Steve Everitt. Congratulations to all prize winners but in particular to Philippa for such a terrific show of multiple successes over the month.

May sees the end of the winter programme, with the summer programme due to start on June 11 with the annual Barrian Cup and Dave Cowdrey Trophy. Approximately 20 clubs from Wales and the West of England will be competing for these trophies and anyone who wants to see some first class photography should come along to the St. Francis Millennium Centre to this event.

Throughout the remainder of 2016 we have a full programme of talks, demonstrations, photographic expeditions, competitions and inter-club battles planned.

New members are particularly encouraged and will be made most welcome with a programme prepared especially for the new and less experienced photographers, to allow them to quickly gain more proficiency and satisfaction from their hobby.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry, CF62 6NX. We are a very friendly organisation and new members of all experience and skill levels are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join. Alternatively, for more information visit our website www.barrycameraclub.co.uk

RN

Pyle's Gareth celebrates triple triumph

THE Tredegar Farmers annual point-to-point steeplechases at picturesque and sunny Lower Machen attracted one of the biggest crowds seen at a South Wales point-to-point in years.

The going, good to soft after heavy rain throughout the night, made for perfect conditions and racegoers had the privilege of seeing one of the best Welsh point-to-pointers of all time, the homebred *Rosies Peacock*, land the inaugural running of The Welsh Long Distance Men's Open Race over three miles and five furlongs.

Well ridden by Welsh champion John Mathias, David Llewellyn's 13-year-old bay gelding went clear approaching the second last fence to score by six lengths from the best turned out *C Me In Oz* (Bradley Gibbs), with the pacemaking Cotswold invader *Nobby Kivambo* (Mark Wall) a further 20 lengths back in third place.

The now legendary *Rosies Peacock* was notching up his 34th success from 62 starts and these include one hunter chase. Mathias has ridden him to success in either 26 or 27 of these wins. He said : "Call it 26 as I am not quite sure."

The opening Subaru Restricted race went to John Chinn's eight-year-old grey gelding *Frosty Heights*, ridden by Bradley Gibbs, and which won by one-and-a-half lengths from *IfYouThinkSo* (Regan Pallas) with *Seeigora* (Rilly Goschen) a further 10 lengths back in third place.

Former rider Mr Chinn, who has been involved in the sport for more years than he probably cares to remember, was paying a first visit to Lower Machen and was delighted with his *Pip Hooley* trained charge who had been bucking all the week.

Mr Chinn was full of praise for the Lower Machen racecourse and a return visit would certainly be on the cards.

Apparently, not so delighted was the experienced Rilly Goshen who said her ground had been taken by the winner approaching the third last fence. After a lengthy stewards' inquiry, the result remained the same but Miss Goschen has appealed their decision.

The closest finish of the day came in the Confined when Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy's saddle-slipping *Captain Camelot*, partnered by James King, who was standing in for the sidelined Tom David, got home by three parts of a length from *Mr Sawyer* (Bradley Gibbs).

Captain Camelot was the first leg of a first-ever double for Mrs Goldsworthy whose new horse, *Minella Arts*, a seven-year-old bay gelding by *Presenting,* took the closing Open Maiden.

Partnered by James King, *Minella Arts*, who also won the best turned out prize, won by 10 lengths from *Brooklands Beatle*. Gibbs's mount *Shadow's Boy* was going well only to stumble at the last fence.

The Ladies' Open race went to a back in-form *Watch The Birdie* who, under Hannah Lewis, won by four lengths from the odds-on *Patricktom Boru* (Jodie Hughes).

Watch The Birdie, owned by Keith Pritchard, had finished second in her previous four races but is something of a Lower Machen course specialist as trainer Gareth Moore from Pyle told me that she was recording her fifth win over the course.

Gareth, who also trains *Captain Camelot* and *Minella Arts*, has certainly learned a lot from his uncle John Moore who bought the horse on Mrs Goldsworthy's behalf and who, over the years, trained many winners for her.

Hon secretary Colin Cross said he was delighted with the number of racegoers who stayed to see the pony racing and that he had several children who came to see him wanting to know how they could get involved in the sport.

The 138cms pony race was won by *Tealson Topic* and 11-year-old Daniel Ellis and Tamby Welch, aged 13, won the 148cms pony race on *Buddy's Girl*.

BRIAN LEE

Barry's Rainbow Run is held on Island and aims to raise funds for Ty Hafan

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANDY WICKS
Telephone 07855 374478

More than 1,300 colourful fundraisers got pelted in multi-coloured paint for Tŷ Hafan's Barry Rainbow Run at Barry Island on Saturday afternoon.

As you can see from Andy Wicks (colourful) pics everyone had a fantastic and fun time!

Under-15s end season with silverware!

LLANTWIT MAJOR RFC under-15s concluded their season with silverware at the Cardiff & District tournament in Llanishen, winning the district plate by beating Llandaff 12-10 in the final.

Upon winning, captain Luke Birnage, on behalf all the entire squad, wanted to dedicate the District Plate triumph to LMRFC mini & junior founding father Jimmy Griffiths, who recently passed away.

Winning silverware was the final piece in the jigsaw to what was a very successful season with the squad already looking forward to the under-16s.

Since September 2015 the squad has grown both in numbers and confidence, and the new additions to an already talented squad have allowed the team to progress and develop further as a unit.

The added incentive of a tour coming up next season has also generated plenty of interest and motivation.

The boys have won 80 per cent of their fixtures this season, scoring 97 tries. The team have encountered a nasty injuries and been on the wrong side of the scoreline on occasions; however, their continued belief to improve and progress is something they should be admired for.

The hard work put in during training and games has shaped this squad to hopefully challenge and progress further next season.

On behalf of the club I want to thank all the players for their hard work and dedication during training, the parents who come rain or shine are there cheering on the team and not only their sons. Your continued support has played a massive contribution to the team's successes.

I want to thank my fellow coaches Kerry Williams, Alan McIness and Brian Henson for their efforts and lastly to Roger Elliot, our team referee, who has been a stalwart all season for us.

We are hoping to build further going into next season. Any players looking to join are more than welcome. We are looking for players who have or currently playing at club level, but training will be given to those who haven't played before. For more information please contact Kris Pilcher on 07557128861.

Squad: Dominic Henson, Tyler Chandler-Haines, Ieuan Harford, Brandon Hughes, Connor Treadgold, Cameron Sims, Dylan Carroll, Rhys Roberts, Will Roberts, Owen Hodge, Mason Richardson, Callum McIness, Jos Harris, Edward Devonfold, Dan Manfield, Gregor Harris, Liam Padmore, Ellis Harding, Owen Evans, Liam Palmer, Tom Mead, Dylan Chamberlain, Corley Doster, Iwan Robinson-Booth, Dylan Holloway, Luke Birnage (c).

KP

PLENTY OF ENTRIES FOR POINT-TO-POINT

MORE than 100 entries have been received for the Llangeinor and Pentyrch Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases at the Dunraven Stud, Pyle near Bridgend on Saturday (first race 2pm).

Ten of them are down to run in the men's open steeplechase and all eyes here will be on last year's winner David Llewellyn's prolific Rosies Peacock, who will be bidding for his 35th success.

The Mickey Bowen trained Cygnet, who finished just a length behind Rosies Peacock at the Banwen Miners' fixture, might be the one to trouble him again but others of note include Doctor Braveheart and Bay Central.

There are 10 down to run in the ladies' open race and Keith Pritchard's Watch The Birdie, who bounced back to form with a good win in the ladies' open race at Sunday's Tredegar Farmers' meeting, will take some catching.

Highly Unlikely, who took the ladies' open race at the Banwen Miners when finishing a length ahead of Watch The Birdie, is an obvious danger while Repeat Business and Lauberhorn are also worth a mention.

There are 21 entries for the confined and David Brace OBE, on whose land the races are held on, and who won this race last year with BringintheBranston, can win it again this time with Doctor Braveheart. WithOutTheFavourite, NorthGeorge and C Me In Oz are others to consider.

In the hunt members race there are 12 down to face the starter and Bob The Butcher, North George and Ride On Time are three to consider.

Of the 17 entries for the restricted, Full Print, Its A Mistake and Mad Money all have claims.

There are 21 entries for the closing open maiden and the finish could be fought out between the grey Tenant Farmer and An Cor, who has been knocking on the door all season.

There will be three pony races before racing with the first of them at 12.30pm, so make sure you arrive early to cheer home these young riders who in a few years time will probably be riding between-the flags.

BRIAN LEE

The Barry and District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 7, West End Runaways 8; Moors Boys 7, Rhoose Social 8; Wyndham Cons 8, Cadoxton Cons 7.

League table: Rhoose Social 188, Wyndham Cons 185, West End 182, Liberals 180, West End Runaways 180, Cadoxton Cons 177, Moors Boys 168.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Sea View B 6.5, Rhoose Social B 0.5; Allsorts 2, Liberals C 5; Slammers 7, Rhoosters 0; Rhoose Social C 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; West End D 5.5, Rugby Club 1.5; Liberals A 0, Barries Boys 7.

League table: Sea View B 126, West End D 113, Barries Boys 102.5, King William XII 93.5, Rugby Club 93, Slammers 90, West End C 84.5, Rhoose Social A 84, Rhoose Social B 82.5, Allsorts 82, Rhoosters 75, Rhoose Social C 71, Liberals C 67.5, Liberals A 61, Cambrian Flyers 55.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Harbour B 5, Cadoxton Cons B 0; Cadoxton Cons Z 4, Caddy Allstars 1; Rhoose Social B 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Penarth Cons B 1, Savoy A 4;

West End C 4, Market Street C 1.

League table: Savoy A 106, Harbour B 106, Cadoxton Cons B 88, Wyndham Cons A 75, West End C 68, *Cadoxton Cons Z 66, Rhoose Social B 51, Caddy Allstars 50, Rhoose Social C 49, Penarth Cons B 45, Market Street C 42.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 4, Wyndham Cons D 1; Penarth Cons A 4, Market Street B 1; Liberators 2, Wyndham Cons C 3; Savoy B 2, Services Social B 3; West End B 1, West End A 4.

League table: Services Social B 91, Liberators 88, Savoy B 83, Penarth Cons A 82, Market Street B 79, Wyndham Cons C 70, Cadoxton Cons A 62, Sully Sports A 57, West End A 56, Wyndham Cons D 41, West End B 41 (* = points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

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Warren Gatland takes no chances with tour squad to face the All Blacks

AS the curtain thankfully falls on what wing wizard Shane Williams has rightly described as "the worst season in the history of Welsh regional rugby", pity national team coach Warren Gatland, who once again has to pick up the pieces and raise players' battered morale for the toughest challenge of all - a three-test tour against the mighty All Blacks in his New Zealand homeland.

He has announced an enlarged 35-man squad against a background of embarrassing Pro12 play-off results for the struggling regions, that next season sees only the Scarlets in contention for the Champions Cup, with the other three (including the once unassailable Ospreys), sadly confined to Europe's second division Challenge Cup.

"I can't imagine Warren Gatland will be pleased to see so many of his top players facing the likes of Calvisano, rather than Toulon, Saracens, or Racing," Shane Williams noted wryly.

The only question this week was would the Kiwi use the opportunity to shake up a Wales squad he has painstakingly assembled over time, and tap into the rich vein of young Welsh talent impatiently waiting in the wings?

In the end, there were no surprises for this most arduous of rugby tests - Gatland wisely not taking risks with untried youth and opting instead for a familiar squad "packed full of experience for an exciting five-match summer campaign".

Squad - Backs: Gareth Davies, Rhys Webb, Lloyd Williams, Gareth Anscombe, Dan Biggar, Rhys Priestland, Jonathan Davies, Tyler Morgan, Jamie Roberts, Scott Williams, Hallam Amos, Matthew Morgan, Tom James, George North, Eli Walker, Liam Williams.

Forwards: Rob Evans, Tomas Francis, Paul James, Gethin Jenkins, Rhodri Jones, Samson Lee, Scott Baldwin, Kristian Dacey, Ken Owens, Jake Ball, Luke Charteris, Bradley Davies, Alun-Wyn Jones, Taulupe Faletau, James King, Dan Lydiate, Ross Moriarty, Josh Turnbull, Sam Warburton (c).

DON JOHN

Cowbridge RFC prevails in an 86 point thriller!

COWBRIDGE RFC headed north last Saturday to Cefn Coed and, on an afternoon more suited to cricket than rugby, ran out winners, securing a bonus point as well.

Cefn scored first with a miss move in the midfield and their right wing crossing for an unconverted try.

Cowbridge responded on 10 minutes with centre Will Williams offloading in a tackle to outside half Huw Lougher, who spun the ball out to right wing Dai Griffiths to beat his man and cross from 35 metres.

Full back Alex Guard added the conversion. Arguably Cowbridge's best try was disallowed for a forward pass and involved Lougher initially and then a series of superb interchanges between scrum half Richie Howson and wing Griffiths before Howson crossed only to be brought back.

Griffiths got on the scoreboard again after good approach work by No 8 Emyr Stone and Howson; Guard added the extras.

Cefn came back with a second for their right wing which their centre converted. On the 27 minute mark Lougher crossed for a try, and the conversion was given by the touch judges only to be overruled by the referee who suggested it was a metre wide. Common agreement put it more like two.

There was a hat trick for Griffiths following a great tackle by Howson and support from flanker Rhod Walker. Howson got his reward minutes later with a converted try.

Cefn closed out the half with a try for their scrum half. The half-time score was 17-33.

Into the second half and the scoring continued. Williams went over in the corner from 30 metres; Alex Guard, without the kicking tee, drop-kicked the conversion which hit the post.

Cefn's scrum half got his second followed by an excellent conversion and they added another through their prop. Flanker Walker then had to take an enforced 10 minutes on the sidelines.

Cowbridge made changes with Ieuan Griffiths and a little later Alun John coming on and both added to the scrum. At the mid-point the ball was worked to the left and Williams came in and then back out to score an excellent try from Cowbridge's own half. Guard added an excellent conversion.

Prop Ben Worrell made two barnstorming runs and the second set up a try for left wing Luke James to cross. Cefn had the last score as their centre crossed for a converted try.

In the last minute Cefn worked their left wing clear but hooker Connor Boys, as he has all season, wouldn't let him get away and produced a wonderful cover tackle, for a final score of 36-50.

This was very much an end of season game, but enjoyable. Both teams produced some good rugby, but Cowbridge had more pace behind. Cefn gave the club a good welcome and thanks go to them.

By the time this report goes to press the first team will have played second placed Abercwmboi, with still four games to play.

We are away to Caerau Ely this Saturday, followed by unbeaten table- toppers Taffs Well at home on Wednesday, May 18, and Tonyrefail away on Saturday, May 21; the home game against St Albans is still to be arranged.

RK/RV

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, May 5, the Edmondes Arms hosted the ladies singles knockout competition.

It was a very exciting evening of darts with almost all games going to three legs.

The two finalists will be Mickey Wilcox and Joan Burt, both from the Old Post Ladies. The defeated semi-finalists were Maggie Drummond (Edmondes A) and Amanda Hole (Old Post Ladies).

Next Tuesday, May 17, the Six Bells Inn will host the captain's cup.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com; up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Rain stops Vale CC's momentum

WITH Vale Cricket Club, in first to bat against Crumlin, low on personnel, relying on junior members to field a team, the situation was made worse by two quick wickets.

However, Mark Francis and Huw James set up an outstanding partnership, scoring 93 and 67 respectively.

Francis was only caught when unselfishly hitting out in the final overs. Vale finished with a respectful total of 223.

Crumlin were immediately put under pressure by junior pairing Gethin and Idris Merry with a brilliant opening spell, taking four wickets inside the first eight overs, Gethin taking three that included an outstanding catch by his twin brother Idris.

C Williams put up some resistance with 49 not out but Vale will count themselves unlucky when heavy rain halted the contest - Crumlin were 95 for 5, needing an unlikely further 129.

MS

BARRY ATHLETIC STROLL TO A 10-WICKET WIN AT SULLY

ON Saturday, Barry Athletic first XI travelled to Sully to face Sully Centurions in their opening league game of the newly formed South East Wales Cricket League; Sully won the toss and decided to bat.

Sully were soon up against it and were bowled out for 35 runs in 15 overs and 57 minutes, John Gee being the main protagonist as he picked up 7 for 15 with the wickets of Allsop (12), Pavel (0), Thomas (6), Prashant (first ball LBW 0), Bhart (1), Ganesh (0) and Cuddahey (0).

At the other end, Jake Griffett was menacing with his left arm pace and he picked up the wickets of Capper (0), Sandeep (0) and Santos (4) as he finished with 3 for 20.

Barry openers David Goodway and Nathan Baker did not take long to knock the runs off as they took the score to 39 for 0, and a 10-wicket win, with Goodway (16 not out) and Baker (14 not out) and a sum total of 20 overs and 91 minutes for the whole game and a 20 point win.

At the clubhouse after the game Peter Hellyar was awarded a commemorative cap for his 30 consecutive years in the first XI.

On Sunday Barry travelled to Malpas for a Welsh Cup game, lost the toss and were asked to bat first in a reduced game of 30 overs.

They got off the a rapid start as openers Goodway and Baker had 48 on the board before Baker was caught behind for 35 including two fours and three sixes.

Goodway went for 18 with the score on 82, and two wickets then fell on 143, White for 11 and Rhett Jones for a fine 62.

The fifth wicket fell at 146 when Ellis went for 13, and it was 172 for 6 when Griffett was out for 13. Nicky Jones then followed on 189, before Dawson was run out for a fine 27, the score now 215 for 9. Frost was the last man out for 3 as Barry finished 218 all out.

In reply, Malpas were always up with the run rate as they were 109 for 2 in the 16th over, then cometh the hour cometh the man (or men) as Goodway (5 for 26) and Frost (3 for 15) bowled Malpas out for 200 and a fine 18-run win.

Ward (43), Morgan (41), Francis (36) and Martin (35) were the main scorers for Malpas.

This week Barry Athletic first XI entertain Ebbw Vale at The Island Ground with a 12.30pm start, while the second XI travel to Whitchurch Heath with a 1pm start.

MR

'Disastrous' start to league season for the Centurions

SULLY CENTURIONS' first XI had a nightmare start to the league season as they were skittled out by local rivals Barry Athletic for just 35 at Burnham Avenue.

The small target was reached by Barry in just five overs. John Gee (with seven wickets for 15) and Jake Griffett (3 for 20) did the damage for the visitors, Sully Centurions 35 all out, Barry Athletic 39-0

The seconds played Barry Athletic second XI in the reverse fixture and batted first at Barry Island, making 139.

Simon Phillips, with 4-26, and Nick Jones (3-30) were the main wicket takers for Athletic. For Centurions, Ben Spear's 66 was the highlight of the innings.

The Athletic were just six overs into their reply when the rains came. After a lengthy break it was decided that the game would have to be abandoned. Barry Athletic II 21-0, Sully Centurions II 139 all out (match abandoned).

On Sunday Centurions entertained Welsh Asians in the first round of the Welsh Cup.

The visitors batted first on a glorious sunny afternoon and lost an early wicket when A Ilyas was caught off the bowling of Santosh for 3, with 13 on the board.

Opener Ashraf was joined by K Ilyas, who became the first of Nathan Cuddihy's victims, falling for 21, with the scoreboard showing 42. Cuddihy picked up the next two wickets as well and the Asians were 83 for 4 at drinks.

Ashraf finally fell to Santosh for a well-made 50 and at 152 for 9, Centurions could have felt pleased with the afternoon's work in the field.

However, Rehman (26) and Niaz (11) put on 40 for the last wicket to leave Sully with a target of 193. Nathan Cuddihy (4-44) and Santosh Singh (3-45) were Centurions' main wicket takers.

The Centurions' innings was going much the same way as the Asians' had, with the score being an identical 83-4 at the halfway stage.

Skipper Ted Alsop (40) and Rajkumar (52) were the mainstay of the home innings. Pavel hit a quickfire 20 and Ali Raza got 16 as they chased the target.

But the last wicket fell at 171, leaving Welsh Asians winners by 21 runs. For the visitors, the wickets were shared between Usman (4-34), Niaz (2-26) and Rehman (2-40).

Although the game was lost, it went a long way to help erase the memory of the previous day's result.

Sully Centurions 171 all out, Welsh Asians 192 all out.

This Saturday, the first XI travel to Rogerstone while the second XI host Rogerstone's seconds at Sully - can all players please let the captains know of their availability as soon as possible?

MF

Late drama sees Dinas Powys RFC defeated by Barry

DINAS Powys RFC outscored their hosts Barry by four tries to three but still managed to lose the match through poor discipline, conceding four kickable penalties that allowed the hosts to grab an unlikely victory.

The Villagers, trailing by 23-10 at half-time, fought back gamely to lead 30-32 in the final minute, before being penalised for a high tackle that allowed Barry to snatch a late victory.

The pleasant temperature and hazy sunshine was replaced dramatically in the final minutes as torrential rain drenched a large passionate crowd, resulting in all but the most ardent of fans seeking shelter.

The Villagers responded to two early Barry penalties with a penalty of their own and a stunning individual try by fly half Adam Williams.

Barry soon regained the lead as Dinas Powys conceded a penalty deep in Barry territory; quick thinking by the Barry fly half saw a long kick downfield chased by the home right wing who regathered and scored under the posts.

The home side extended the lead as the ball shot out from the tunnel in a scrum, the match official allowed play to continue and the Barry open side picked up the loose ball and fed the home fly half to cross for a try.

The first half ended with the Villagers pressing hard, squandering chances and thereby failing to reduce the deficit.

The Villagers started the second half strongly and after five minutes, full back John Morris crossed in the left corner following fine interplay between centre Sam Middlemiss and Adam Williams.

The Barry lead was reduced 23-17 as Morris converted his own try and, with only 15 minutes of the second half played, a thrilling contest was unfolding in front of the large partisan crowd.

The restart was gathered by left wing Duke Durham, who ran strongly out of defence, and the Villagers will feel aggrieved that his tackler did not roll away after the tackle and Barry were able to gather the ball and release their outside centre to cross for a try that was converted, extending the lead to 30-17.

Dinas Powys then increased their effort and started to dominate the contest, and second row Gareth Williams crashed over for a try following a quickly taken tap penalty.

The conceding of penalties close to the tryline was now commonplace and several final warnings were issued to to the home side. The Villagers were rampant and fine play by the threequarters freed replacement right wing Mark Goode to crash over for a try that advanced the score to 30-29.

The conversion from the touchline went wide, but a few minutes later Morris kicked a penalty that gave the Villagers a 30-32 lead and victory seemed to have been gained.

The weather took a turn for the worst as raindrops the size of marbles drenched the combatants, but the Dinas defence was robust and there seemed no way through for the home side.

However, the referee spotted a close contact high tackle and awarded a penalty that gifted victory to the home side.

The Dingoes play St Josephs in the final of the Mallet Cup at Cardiff Arms Park on Friday, May 14, kick off 7.15pm - a coach will leave the club at 5.15pm.

HJ

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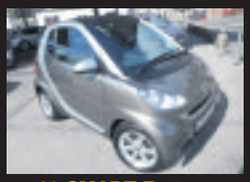

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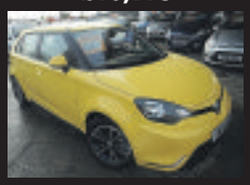

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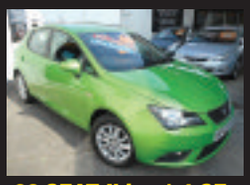

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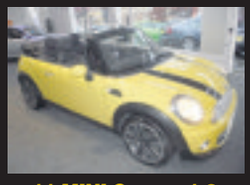

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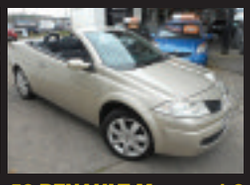

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Captain John takes men to Monmouth!

COTTRELL PARK Golf Club captain John Cashman ventured off to the rolls of Monmouth Golf Club on Saturday, April 30 for his away day, where 52 of the men's section joined him.

ES

Team CAVs toast their cup triumph!

TEAM CAVs, Cardiff and Vale College's first female squad, has triumphed in the Welsh Colleges Football Association Female Cup.

The team, a newly formed partnership between Cardiff and Vale College and Cardiff City Football Club Foundation and Education, took part in the group fixture schedule where the top two teams competed in the finals.

"The competition included some very experienced female programmes that have been competing in Cat 1 football previously," CAVC head of football Jamie Sherwood said. "Neath Port Talbot, Swansea City LFC Academy, Merthyr College and Gower College all have a strong presence in the female college programme."

Team CAVs were up against Merthyr College first. The game started slowly with both teams feeling their way into the game but a goal from Montana May saw Team CAVs open the scoring and with resolute defending marshalled by Lilly Crandon and Robyn Facey, saw Team CAVs start the day with 1-0 win.

"Next we played the unknown quantity of Pembrokeshire College," Jamie said. "Team CAVs quickly set about putting them under pressure with Bevan Evans and with Joanne Hodge causing havoc on the flanks the girls quickly asserted themselves and Team CAVs found themselves winning 2-0."

Next up, Team CAVs faced Neath Port Talbot College, playing in the kit of Swansea City.

"Team CAVs vs Swansea City was everything you would expect from a local derby – high intensity, quick tempo, strong tackles and end-end-end football," Jamie said. Despite Joanne Hodge nearly scoring and strong defence from Molly Facey, the Swans won 1-0.

Unfazed, Team CAVs then went on to beat Gower College 2-0 and Coleg Menai 4-0, leading to a showdown between Team CAVs and Merthyr College in the final.

After a score of 1-1 the Team CAVs vs Merthyr College match went into extra time, but eventually Team CAVs came out on top with a convincing 3-1 win.

"Team CAVs were the champions and the girls celebrated in style and were full of noise, song and banter immediately after the final whistle," Jamie said.

"The team performed extremely well against some really tough opposition and both me and tutor Matt Roberts are massively proud of them."

CB

Anniversary race draws strong group of competitors...

ON Saturday, April 30, the Barry Yacht Club ran the 80th anniversary Bristol Channel Race in conjunction with the Bristol Channel Pilot Cutters Association and very generously sponsored by Simon Winter Marine.

The weather leading up to this event was not particularly favourable but a total of seven vessels entered the race with five arriving on Friday and most taking advantage of the free docking and berths provided by ABP.

The remaining boats arranged to arrive on Saturday morning before the midday race start. The fleet comprised a total of four original Bristol Channel Pilot Cutters and three other gaff rigged vessels.

All crews attended a very successful fish and chip supper at the BYC Clubhouse on Friday evening where we were also joined by members of the Old Gaffers Association.

The course for this event requires the boats to round Lundy Island and then sail north to a buoy at the west end of the Helwick sands off the Gower peninsular before returning to finish at Barry. The straight line distance is about 125 nautical miles.

The weather on Saturday morning was ideal with a force 3 to 4 westerly wind and some pleasant sunshine.

The wind freshened just before the start and some vessels tacked inshore to cheat the last hour of the flood tide.

Others kept offshore on starboard tack and most of the fleet ended up reaching the southern coast of the channel somewhere between Lynmouth and Illfracombe.

They encountered some fairly strong winds and the usual choppy sea produced by the ebb tide running against the westerly wind.

One of the pilot cutters, Alpha, retired due to seasickness and an injury to a crew member. She returned to Barry that evening.

In the late afternoon and evening the wind lightened and some boats had to anchor to prevent being pushed back up channel by the next flood tide.

The leading boats at this stage were the gaff rigged Jan Rorlan and the pilot cutter Mascotte. They both reached Lundy at about 0400 on Sunday morning and then had a broad reach to the Helwick buoy. The Bristol Channel Cutter Olga rounded Lundy at about 0500 with the Scillies Cutter Agnes about an hour astern.

Working Yacht 1 and the final pilot cutter Dolphin rounded Lundy several hours later and they all made fairly fast passages to the Helwick with the increased westerly breeze.

The leading three boats reached the Helwick between 0900 and 1000 with Agnes rounding at about midday and Working Yacht at about 1300. Dolphin, the smallest boat in the race, was still in fairly close touch with the rest of the fleet.

Almost all the vessels encountered a lightening wind and some flat calm for their return up channel but the slower boats had the best of the wind while the leaders had to anchor to prevent being set back down channel by the ebb tide.

Progress for all vessels was very slow in the very light conditions and the weather turned pretty miserable with thick mist and drizzly rain. Some boats spent several hours at anchor and the Jan Rorlan had to use her motor to keep clear of the shallow sands off Nash Point. She eventually retired and motored home.

The first boat to finish was Mascotte at 13 minutes past midnight on Monday morning having completed the course in just over 36 hours.

She was followed about 1½ hours later by Agnes which was some ¾ hour ahead of Olga.

Working Yacht 1 finished shortly before 0400 with the last boat, Dolphin, only about 40 minutes astern. Considering the variety of vessels entered in the race and the very variable conditions, it is surprising that all boats finished so close to one another after this long race.

On corrected time the two winning boats were only 4 minutes and 16 seconds apart and the whole fleet were only a little over two hours apart after more than 40 hours of racing.

Following the race BYC put on a buffet lunch for all competitors at Monday lunchtime. Following this lunch the Commodore of BYC, Joe Frearson, expressed particular thanks to the crews of the vessels who had attended this very successful anniversary race.

He also thanked all those who were involved in the organisation of the race and the ladies who had prepared the supper and the buffet lunch. The prizes were then presented to the winners by the Commodore's wife, Lis.

Each of the boats is allocated an individual handicap and the calculations produced the following corrected overall results:

1st Bristol Channel Pilot Cutter, Dolphin (Roger Capps) winning the Cock o' the Bristol Channel Trophy, a BYC Burgee defaced with a golden cockerel and £200. 1st Non Pilot Cutter, Working Yacht 1 (John Laband) winning the Tern Challenge Trophy and £200.

There was also a prize for the first boat to finish and this was Mascotte (Mark Tyndall) winning the Lundy Challenge Trophy and £100.

Each of the winners will also receive a half model of their boat. All competitors received a commemorative brass plaque and an individual mug incorporating an illustration of their boat.

BD

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

COGAN CORONATION were crowned VOGAFL Division One Champions with a 4-0 win over Cadoxton Barry.

Despite SWFA rules stopping them being promoted to the Premier Division (due to their first team being in the Alliance League), their championship win is a brilliant achievement in a tough division.

FC Pumas dispatched Cogan's nearest challengers Sully 5-2 and Tynewydd won 8-0 over BV to leap frog Sully into second.

Vale United kept up their promotion push defeating Cadoxton Athletic 2-0 to stay fourth and a point beind second place.

Cardiff Airport B won their final game of the season 7-2 against Glenbrook to seal an impress fifth place finish while Barry Belgrade were held 4-4 by second bottom AFC Rhoose.

Up in the Premier Division, Dinas Powys Athletic warmed up for the ASRS Cup final this Sunday by winning their last game of the season 4-3 over SP Construction to finish in an excellent fifth position.

Their cup final opponents, Penarth Town, held Cowbridge Town 2-2 to guarantee they finish outside the bottom two.

In Division Two, Dockers Reunited's title celebrations were put on hold as they were held 2-2 against St Athan B while Barry Athletic B beat third place Cadoxton Imps 2-1 to keep the title race alive.

Dockers will have hoped to have clinched the league last night (Wednesday) against Island Marine. In the third game, bottom side Barry Albion held Penarth Town B 2-2.

Finally, commiserations to double winners Cardiff Airport as they were denied a treble by Trebanog, who defeated the Vale champions 3-0 to win their own treble. Nonetheless, it was a tremendous season by Airport with the play-offs to the Alliance League to come.

This weekend the big game is on Sunday at Jenner Park as Dinas Powys Athletic play Penarth Town in the final of the historic ASRS Cup, 2.15pm kick off.

HD

Youngsters get their kicks at tournament

YOUNG people from the Barry Kicks project represented Cardiff City Football Club's Foundation team at the 2016 Premier League Kicks Cup recently in Nottingham.

Joe Hewings and Mitchell Thomas were both selected by the coaching staff after standing out as key players and showing long term commitment to the programme.

The Kicks Cup is part of the Premier League Community Flagship programme which has seen 52 Premier League and Football League clubs from across England and Wales compete with the ultimate goal of becoming the 2016 champions.

Joe Hewings, who was selected for the team, said: "The whole day was such an amazing experience. To be given a chance to represent Cardiff City in a national football tournament is something I will never forget."

The Barry Kicks project is free and looks to develop sport for 14 to 19 year olds. It takes place every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm at Colcot Sports centre - if you would like further information please contact Zac Lyndon-Jones on 07701 287689.

The Barry Kicks Project is run in partnership with Newydd Housing Assoication, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Communities first, South Wales Police and Legacy leisure.

DT

Vale trainers enjoy success

VALE racehorse trainers Evan Williams, Tim Vaughan and John Flint all saddled winners last Tuesday.

At Fakenham, Evan Williams took the opening selling hurdle with Kudu Country who, under stable jockey Paul Moloney, got home by a head from the favourite Kiama Bay and just over an hour or so later John Flint won the TBA mares handicap hurdle with Ayla's Emperor, who won by one and three quarter lengths from Mo Chalin.

The feature race at this meeting was won by 16-1 outsider Rebecca's Choice who, like Ayla's Emperor, was ridden by RT Dunne. Rebecca's Choice is trained by Dai Burchell at Ebbw Vale.

Tim Vaughan and jockey Alan Johns teamed up to win the novices' hurdle at Sedgefield with Bleu Et Noir, who scored by two-and-three-quarter lengths from Crakehill Lad.

EVAN'S NEWTON ABBOT WINNER

Bonobo, a nine-year-old bay gelding trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, landed the Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle at Newton Abbot last Wednesday.

Well ridden by Lewis Gordon, Bonobo, an 8-1 chance, owned by Evan's mother Mrs Mary Evans and her husband William Evans, beat the odds-on favourite Dispour by a neck in an exciting finish.

BRIAN LEE

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Basketballers impress at tournament!

On Saturday, May 7, Cowbridge Comprehensive School's basketball season reached its climax with Basketball Wales' National Schools finals.

Cowbridge was represented by its boys and girls Key Stage 3 teams. Both had qualified as the number one south Wales seed by winning earlier tournaments.

They'd been training hard in the weeks leading up to the finals and were determined to end the day victorious.

The boys started off proceedings with their semi-final against St. Gerard's of Bangor, the second place north Wales team. Both sides began by showing signs of nerves and St. Gerard's got ahead early.

Cowbridge settled down quickly and cranked the defensive pressure up to 100. Although the boys continued to show some rust on the offensive end they literally shut the north Walians down.

For the last three quarters St. Gerard's remained scoreless and Cowbridge soared to an easy win, 27-5.

The Cowbridge girls side played their semi-final next. Their opponents were Flint High School, again the second place north Wales team.

Knowing this was an opportunity to demonstrate their experienced basketball skills the Cowbridge girls attacked the basket with near reckless abandon. Flint struggled to find any answer and Cowbridge rolled to an easy win 42-6.

After a break while the third place games played out, it was time for the Key Stage 3 boys final.

Facing Cowbridge would be their south Wales nemeses Cynffig Comprehensive. The teams had faced off in the first game in the south Wales tournament.

Cowbridge had won that game and knew that Cynffig would be looking for revenge. Having rested and prepared themselves effectively, Cowbridge flew to an early lead and led 14-4 at the end of the first quarter.

It didn't take long for Cynffig to get into the game however and the second quarter was tight throughout, Cowbridge only slightly increasing their advantage by one point. The teams went into the half with Cowbridge still ahead, 24-13.

In the third quarter both teams matched each other perfectly blow for blow with both sides only scoring four apiece.

Knowing the national championship was there for the taking, Cowbridge entered the final quarter determined to bring home the silverware. The ball started moving like lighting as the boys found gaps in the Cynffig defence and punished them for it. The game ended with Cowbridge victorious, 37-20.

Eager to match the boys the girls' team took to the court straight after. Again the opponent was the second placed south Wales team.

This time it was St Richard Gwyn (SRG) who had defeated Harwarden from Flintshire to reach the final. SRG had prepared a special game plan for Cowbridge that was designed to stop the driving games of Cowbridge co-captains Greggs and Hawks.

The first quarter was a tight affair with both teams leading at different points. Cowbridge had nudged ahead by the end, going up 11-7.

It was the second quarter in this final that both teams traded blows at an equal measure. Cowbridge struggled to score but managed to keep SRG under control and the teams headed into the half 15-11.

Knowing that plan A wasn't fully working, Cowbridge turned to plan B and brought on Year 8s Connie and Maddie.

As the defence locked into the co-captains the Year 8 girls broke the SRG defensive scheme marvellously. Connie positioned herself perfectly to receive drop off passes and scored three straight baskets.

Maddie found her spots outside the key and waited patiently as the co-captains dragged the defence inside. The ball was kicked and swung to Maddie who set her feet and released a perfect jumper.

As it swished through it could be seen that it was dawning on SRG there was no answer for the Cowbridge offense. Cowbridge powered ahead and finished strongly, winning finally 33-18.

These national titles are the culmination of three years of hard work by these Cowbridge students. They train every morning before school and weekly after school.

The majority of them represent the Vale for its basketball team, the Vale Vipers. They won't be resting on their laurels though.

The Year 8 girls will be looking to defend the title next year. The Year 9 players will be eagerly anticipating the challenge of moving up to Key Stage 4 and trying to win it all again, even as underdogs when in Year 10. With a strong crop of Year 7 and 8 players coming through, the future is bright for Cowbridge basketball.

Boys' champions: Adam Duncan, Tom Apjohn-Williams, Jamie Owen, Will Marsden, Alex Oldham, Adam Durrant, Rory James, Joel Carter, Ollie Piper. Girls champions: Jess Gregory, Sophie Hawkins, Kate Floyd, Nicole Yip, Maddie Rooney, Connie Wood, Phoebe Lee, Vivian Yip, Emily Gregory, Hollie Oakman.

COWBRIDGE LADIES SHINE IN THEIR TWO BOWLS GAMES

FOLLOWING on from the success of the Glamorgan Ladies victory against Somerset ladies in their county game in Cowbridge on May 4, it was the turn of our Cowbridge ladies to shine - and they did just that in their two games at home last week.

On May 5, in their league game, the visiting team was from the Penarth Windsor Club. Cowbridge won on two of the three rinks and lost by just one shot on the other. Cowbridge won overall by 64 shots to the visitors 38.

Rink scores: Diane Purnell, Janet Morton, Phyllis Price and Shirley Wilkinson 19-10; Dorothy Pritchard, May Jones, Kay Edwards and Joan Bradley 26-8; Lynda Wilson, Diane Lloyd Pat Holdworth and Helena Snelling 19-20.

There was another good result in the two rink Evening League game the following day. The visitors were from Fairwater Cardiff. Cowbridge won on both rinks and overall by 41 shots to 24.

Rink scores: Diane Purnell, Mary Thomas, Dorothy Pritchard and Diane Lloyd 23-12; Lynda Wilson, Joan Bradley, Phyllis Price and Kay Edwards 18-12 - well done ladies!

In their only game of the week the men played their second Carruthers Shield game away to the Penarth Rectory Road.

Cowbridge were short of a few regular players, but he match began in glorious sunshine.

The Cowbridge rink of Ron Frayling, Michael Bradley, Colin Wilson and Bob Penn started well and were leading by 16 shots to 4.

On the other three rinks Cowbridge were matching their opponents when storm clouds gathered and there was a cloud burst.

We ran for cover and put on our wet weather clothing; play resumed after 15 minutes and on the wet surface Cowbridge were no match for Penarth.

Bob Penn's rink only managed to add one more shot to their 16 and to hold on to win their rink by 17 shots to 15.

The other three rinks lost heavily and the final score was Cowbridge 52, Penarth 99.

This coming Saturday the men play the Ely Valley Club from Tonyrefail. Ely Valley have a number of international players at their disposal and it will be a big test for Cowbridge.

Finally, it is good to report the club has been able to attract many new members this season and already they are playing social bowls organized on Monday afternoons.

MB

William earns his black belt!

WILLIAM MILES, aged 11, has achieved the rank of Tae Kwon Do 1st Degree black belt after recently taking part in what proved to be a very busy and demanding black belt grading.

The national black belt grading took place at the T.A.G.B. headquarters in Bristol on Sunday, April 24 and was led by a grading panel of world masters and senior instructors of the T.A.G.B.

William demonstrated his theory of Tae Kwon Do, his technical skills, pattern knowledge, application of self-defence and sparring abilities.

His instructor, Neil Gimbel, said: "William represented his school in the best way possible and has now become a role model and inspiration for his training partners by reaching the rank of black belt.

"After all the extra hours of training leading up to the big test, and nearly six years of consistent training, dedication and hard work, this is a fantastic result and great achievement."

SM

Bowls club hosts county encounter

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club was delighted to host their first county match, Glamorgan v Somerset, on Wednesday, May 4.

It was great for the club that four of their lady members were selected to play for the Glamorgan team.

This friendly match was played in glorious sunshine, after which both teams enjoyed a meal provided by the ladies' captain and members of Cowbridge Ladies' Bowling Club.

It was evident that both the Glamorgan and Somerset teams thoroughly enjoyed the occasion, which was marked by the presentation of a commemorative glass goblet by the visitors to the Cowbridge ladies' captain, who was delighted to accept it on behalf of the club.

The match resulted in a win for the Glamorgan team.

PDP

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